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THE LANDLORD'S TALE.

PAUL REVERE'S RIDE.

Listen, my children, and you shall hear
Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere,
On the eighteenth of April, in Seventy-five:
Hardly a man is now alive
Who remembers that famous day and year.

He said to his friend "If the British march
By land or sea from the town to-night,
Hang a lantern aloft in the belfry arch
Of the North Church tower as a signal light—
One, if by land, and two, if by sea;
And I on the opposite shore will be,
Ready to ride and spread the alarm
Through every Middlesex village and farm,
For the country-folk to be up and to arm."

Then he said "good night!" and with muffled oar
Silently rowed to the Charlestown shore,
Just as the moon rose over the bay,
Where swinging wide at her moorings lay
The Somerset, British man-of-war;
A phantom ship with each mast and spar
Across the moon like a prison bar,
And a huge black hulk that was magnified
By its own reflection in the tide.

Meanwhile his friend, through alley and street,
Wanders and watches with eager ears,
Till in the silence around him he hears
The muster of men at the barrack door,
The sound of arms and the tramp of feet,
And the measured tread of the grenadiers,
Marching down to their boats on the shore.

Then he climbed the tower of the North Church,
By the wooden stairs, with stealthy tread,
To the belfry-chamber overhead,
And startled the pigeons from their perch
On the sombre rafters, that round him made
Masses and moving shapes of shade—
By the trembling ladder, steep and tall
To the highest window in the wall,
Where he paused to listen and look down
A moment on the roofs of the town,
And the moonlight flowing over all.

Beneath, in the churchyard lay the dead,
In their night encampment on the hill,
Wrapped in silence so deep and still
That he could hear, like a sentinel's tread,
The watchful night-wind, as it went
Creeping along from tent to tent,
And seeming to whisper "all is well!"
A moment only he feels the spell
Of the place and the hour, and the secret dread
Of the lonely belfry and the dead;
For suddenly all his thoughts are bent
On a shadowy something far away,
Where the river widens to meet the bay—
A line of black that bends and floats
On the rising tide like a bridge of boats.

Meanwhile, impatient to mount and ride,
Booted and spurred, with a heavy stride
On the opposite shore walked Paul Revere.
Now he patted his horse's side,
Now gazed on the landscape far and near,
Then, impatient, stamped the earth,
And turned and tightened his saddle-girth;
But mostly he watched with eager search
The belfry tower of the Old North Church,
As it rose above the graves on the hill,
Lonely and spectral and somber and still.
And lo! as he looks on the belfry's height
A glimmer, and then a gleam of light!
He springs to the saddle, the bridle he turns,
But lingers and gazes, till full on his sight
A second lamp in the belfry burns!

A hurry of hoofs in a village street,
A shape in the moonlight, a bulk in the dark,
And beneath, from the pebbles, in passing, a spark
Struck out by a steed flying fearless and fleet;
That was all! And yet through the gloom and the light,
The fate of a nation was riding that night;
And the spark struck out by that steed, in his flight,
Kindled the land into flame with its heat.

He has left the village and mounted the steep,
And beneath him, tranquil and broad and deep,
Is the Mystic, meeting the ocean tides;
And under the alders that skirt its edge,
Now soft on the sand, now loud on the ledge,
Is heard the tramp of his steed as he rides.

It was twelve by the village clock
When he crossed the bridge into Medford town.
He heard the crowing of the cock
And the barking of the farmer's dog,
And felt the dampness of the river fog
That rises after the sun goes down.

It was one by the village clock
When he galloped into Lexington.
He saw the gilded weathercock
Swim in the moonlight as he passed,
And the meeting-house windows, blank and bare,
Gaze at him with a spectral glare,
As if they already stood aghast
At the bloody work they would look upon.

It was two by the village clock,
When he came to the bridge in Concord town.
He heard the bleating of the flock,
And the twitter of birds among the trees,
And felt the breath of the morning breeze
Blowing over the meadows brown.
And one was safe and asleep in his bed
Who by the bridge would be first to fall,
Who that day would be lying dead,
Pierced by a British musket ball.

You know the rest. In the books you have read
How the British Regulars fired and fled—
How the farmers gave them ball for ball,
From behind each fence and farm-yard wall,
Chasing the red-coats down the lane,
Then crossing the fields to emerge again
Under the trees at the turn of the road;
And only pausing to fire and load.

So through the night rode Paul Revere;
And so through the night went his cry of alarm
To every Middlesex village and farm—
A cry of defiance and not of fear,
A voice in the darkness, a knock at the door,
And a word that shall echo forevermore!
For, borne on the night-wind of the Past,
Through all our history, to the last,
In the hour of darkness and peril and need,
The people will waken and listen to hear
The hurrying hoof-beat of that steed,
And the midnight message of Paul Revere.

TRAVELS IN ABYSSINIA.

New Explorations.

Sources of the Nile.

Two interesting books of travel appear simultaneously—both relating to Abyssinia, a part of the world just now of peculiar interest. In a volume called "The Nile Tributaries of Abyssinia, and the Sword-Hunters of the Hamran Arabs," Sir Samuel Baker gives us some new information concerning the great river of Egypt; and in a "Narrative of a Journey through Abyssinia in 1862-3," Mr. Henry Dutton describes the country from the point (Khartoum) where Sir Samuel's travels in Abyssinia ended.

The more important of these books, of course, is Sir Samuel Baker's. His former volume, "The Albert N'yanza," proved that the head-waters of the Nile are contained, not in one lake (as Speke thought), but in two; but his explorations in Abyssinia show further that the inundations of the river are not caused by the direct rain overflow of the two lakes, nor for this supply is only sufficient to keep the stream alive—but by the rush of water from the affluents of Abyssinia in the rainy season. "The mystery of the Nile," he says, "has been dispelled; we have proved that the equatorial lakes supply the main stream, but that the inundations are caused by the combined rush of waters from the torrents of Abyssinia in July, August and September; and that the soil washed down by the floods of the Atbara is at the present moment silting up the mouths of the Nile, and thus slowly but steadily forming a delta beneath the waters of the Mediterranean, on the same principle that created the fertile delta of Egypt."

Eastward of the Blue Nile, taking a similar but acuter course, and joining it at Wat Medene (14½ degrees north latitude), flows the Dinder through low thorny jungle and prairies. Further east flows the river Rahad, a much larger stream, rising in the country of the Habab, whence it stretches to the mountains of Kwara. This river joins the Blue Nile at Abou Harraz, a little lower than the place of junction of the Dinder, at the corner, where it takes the more directly eastern route to Khartoum. In the hilly district at the north end of Lake Tsana rise streams which meet and mingle to form the river Atbara, the second of the two largest Nile tributaries of Abyssinia. As soon as the Atbara leaves the hilly district, it flows in a slightly northeastern direction during the whole of its course until it joins the Nile at or near Berber, a town on the southeastern limit of the Nubian desert. The courses of these rivers are carefully marked on the maps which accompany Sir Samuel's volume. The text contains this further illustration:

THE MYSTERY OF THE NILE REVEALED.

"It would at first sight appear that the discovery of the lake sources of the Nile had completely solved the mystery of ages, and that the fertility of Egypt depended upon the rain fall of the equator concentrated in the lakes Victoria and Albert, but the exploration of the Nile tributaries of Abyssinia divides the Nile system into two proportions, and unravels the entire mystery of the river, by assigning to each its due share in ministering to the prosperity of Egypt. The lake sources of Central Africa support the life of Egypt, by supplying a stream, throughout all seasons, that has sufficient volume to support the exhaustion of evaporation and absorption; but this stream, if unaided, could never overflow its banks, and Egypt, thus deprived of the annual inundation, would simply exist, and cultivation would be confined to the close vicinity of the river. The inundation, which by its annual deposit of mud has actually created the Delta of Lower Egypt, upon the overflow of which the fertility of Egypt depends, has an origin entirely separate from the lake sources of Central Africa, and the supply of water is derved exclusively from Abyssinia.

"The two grand affluents of Abyssinia are the Blue Nile and the Atbara, which join the main stream respectively in north latitude 15 deg. 30 min. and 17 deg. 37 min. These rivers, although streams of extreme grandeur during the period of the Abyssinian rains, from the middle of June until September, are reduced during the dry months to utter insignificance; the Blue Nile becoming so shallow as to be unnavigable, and the Atbara perfectly dry. At that time, the water supply of Abyssinia having ceased, Egypt depends solely upon the equatorial lakes and the affluents of the White Nile until the rainy season shall again have flooded the two great Abyssinian arteries. That flood occurs suddenly about the 20th of June, and the grand rush of water pouring down the Blue Nile and the Atbara into the parent channel inundates Lower Egypt, and is the cause of its extreme fertility. Not only is the inundation the effect of the Abyssinian rains, but the deposit of mud that has formed the Delta, and which is annually precipitated by the rising waters, is also due to the Abyssinian streams, more especially to the river Atbara, which knows as the Bahr el Aswat (Black river) carries a larger proportion of soil than any other tributary of the Nile; therefore, to the Atbara, above all other rivers, must the wealth and fertility of Egypt be attributed. It may thus be stated: the equatorial lakes feed Egypt, but the Abyssinian rivers cause the inundation."

A vivid description of the sudden floods in the Atbara is given as follows:

THE COMING OF THE FLOOD.

* * * "The cool night arrived, and at about half-past eight I was lying, half asleep, upon my bed, by the margin of the river, when I fancied that I heard a rumbling like distant thunder. I had not heard such a sound for months; but a low uninterrupted roll appeared to increase in volume, although far distant. Hardly had I raised my head to listen more attentively, when a confusion of voices arose from the Arabs' camp, with a sound of many feet, and in a few minutes they rushed into my camp, shouting to my men in the darkness, 'El bahr! el bahr!' ('the river! the river!) We were up in an instant, and my interpreter, Mahomet, in a state of intense confusion, explained that the river was coming down, and that the supposed distant thunder was the roar of approaching water. Many of the people were asleep on the clean sand on the river's bed; these were quickly awakened by the Arabs, who rushed down the steep bank to save the skulls of my two hippopotami that were exposed to dry. Hardly had they descended, when the sound of the river in the darkness beneath told us that the water had arrived, and the men, dripping with wet, had just sufficient time to drag their heavy burdens up the bank. All was darkness and confusion; everybody was talking and no one listening, but the great event had occurred, the river had arrived 'like a thief in the night.'

"On the morning of the 24th of June I stood on the banks of the noble Atbara river, at the break of day. The wonder of the desert! Yesterday there was a burning sheet of glaring sand, with a fringe of withered bush and trees upon its borders that cut the yellow expanse of desert. For days we had journeyed along the exhausted bed; all nature, even in nature's poverty, was most poor: no bush could boast a leaf; no tree could throw a shade; crisp gums cracked upon the stems of the mimossas, the sap dried upon the burst bark, sprung with the witheriug heat of the simoom. In one night there was a mysterious change—wonders of the mighty Nile! an army of water was hastening to the wasted river; there was no drop of rain, no thunder clouds on the horizon to give hope, all had been sereue and sultry; dusk and desolation yesterday, to-day a magnificent stream some five hundred yards in width and from fifteen to twenty feet in depth, flowed through the dreary desert! Bamboos and reeds, with trash of all kinds, were hurried along the muddy waters. Where were all the crowded inhabitants of the pool? The prison doors were broken, the prisoners were released, and rejoiced in the mighty stream of the Atbara.

"The 24th of June, 1861, was a memorable day. Although this was actually the beginning of my work, I felt that, by the experience of this night, I had obtained a clue to one portion of the Nile mystery, and that, as "coming events cast their shadows before them," this sudden creation of a river, was to me the index to a great cause. The rains were pouring in Abyssinia! these were the sources of the Nile!"

So great a part of Baker's book is taken up with enthusiastic accounts of his hunting excursions that he has little space, even in a volume of six hundred pages, for matter of other and graver subjects. He pursued, at the peril of his life, and visited with ruthless slaughter, an immense number of elephants, lions, rhinoceroses, giraffes, antelopes and hippopotami, and nearly all his wood-cut illustrations depict these scenes of conflict. His wife, who accompanied him throughout the journey, was in danger of attack by wild beasts, but luckily escaped harm. Gordon Cumming himself was not a greater Nimrod than Baker. There is too much of this sort of story-telling in the book; but the descriptions are interesting and the brief chapters devoted to more important topics are thoughtful and excellent.

Sir Samuel's book is published from the English plates in a very handsome edition by J. B. Lippencott & Co., of Philadelphia.

Mr. Dufton's volume, already mentioned, is rather a gossippy narrative of Abyssinian adventure, and of travel incidental to exploration. Among his stories is the following account of

AN INTERVIEW WITH KING THEODORE.

"Doffing my hat and shoes, leaving the latter on the threshold, I made a bold advance into the interior of the hut; but great was my surprise when, instead of finding anywhere the outward paraphernalia of Oriental royalty, I beheld the famous Theodore, the renowned warrior and absolute king of Abyssinia, unpretendingly dressed in his cotton shirt and trousers, and these not over clean, seated, not on a throne but on a low divan raised about a foot from the ground. Thinking at first that it could not be the king himself who was seated before me, the profound bow with which I entered was rather unceremoniously checked. His request by indication that I would be seated reassured me, and doubling my legs up in the Oriental manner, I squatted down among the rest. We were now well supplied with arracky and *tege* (honey-wine) in the drinking line, as well as with a plain breakfast of bread and meat, stewed mutton to satisfy more solid demands of hunger. In the meantime the king, who was sipping arracky all the time, chatted away very pleasantly in Amharic with the missionaries, plying them with questions in theology, or discussing their recent successes in mortar-making. His appearance during the breakfast-time, forty-five, of middling stature, and possessed of a well-knit but not over-powerful frame, conveying more the idea of being tough and wiry than of strong physical development. His complexion is dark, approaching to black, but he has nothing of the negro about him. His features are altogether of the Caucasian type; his head is well formed and his hair is arranged in large plaits extending back from the forehead. The forehead is high and tends to be prominent. His eye is black, full of fire, quick and piercing. His nose has a little of the Roman about it, being slightly arched and pointed. His mouth is perfect, and his teeth, while colouring the conversation continually played upon it, was exceedingly agreeable, I may say fascinating. He has very little moustache or beard. His manner was peculiarly pleasant, gracious, and even polite, and his general expression, even when his features were at rest, was one of intelligence and benevolence. On the whole, the physiognomist would find no trace of fierce passion save in the lightning glance of his eyes. I watched for the keen shot of light coming from them at times, and reflected upon what he could be capable of, but they did not strike me as treacherous eyes. I felt that he could act savagely under irritation."

Mr. Dufton stayed three months with the European colony at Gaffat, close to the King's residence at Debra Tabor, and saw much of the King and of his surroundings, but had no opportunity of visiting Gondar, the capital of the country. During his stay he made an excursion with the King fifty miles to the south, where the army was encamped. He estimates the soldiers at 50,000; the camp followers at double the number. They had at that time the oddest fashioned flint muskets, and scarcely any artillery, though by this time Mr. Dufton expects that a good number of cannon, mortars, &c., must have been cast at Gaffat. This southern march of the army was against an insurgent chief, Tadla Gualoo, who was not subdued, and who, after four years, "still waves the rebel flag from the walls of his mountain fortress." On the King's return to Debra Tabor, Mr. Dufton had permission to leave the country, and the King sent him by way of Adowa to Massowah, giving him a soldier for guide. The route by which they traveled was not the usual one, but was the most direct and apparently most fruitful in affording our author to say: "Valleys within valleys, mountains upon mountains, constitute the physical features of Abyssinia." After a toilsome and adventurous journey he arrived at Massowah, took a small boat, skirted the Abyssinian coast for four days, then in four days more crossed to Hodeida, a large, well-built town of fifty thousand inhabitants, and thence went by boat to Aden.

STEAM, it appears, is at present employed quite successfully in pulling down houses, where the contractor cares little about preserving the materials. In constructing the works for the extension of the Metropolitan Railway in London, a large number of very old brick houses had to be removed, and a novel method was adopted for effecting the purpose, at the suggestion of one of the contractors. A long chain was placed around the base of a block of five small houses and attached to a powerful steam engine, so that when the latter was put in motion the houses fell to the ground with a terrific report and an impenetrable cloud of dust. The novel method was witnessed by hundreds of persons.

REFERRING to the action of the House of Representatives concerning the Gettysburg Asylum Lottery, the Philadelphia *Bulletin* says: Unless Attorney General Brewster is satisfied that the Gettysburg Orphan Asylum scheme is now conducted with the strictest requirements of the State laws against lotteries, the *expose* made by Mr. Van Wyck should lead him to such prompt and energetic action as will not only repeal the improper legislation by which the charter was procured, but will prevent a recurrence of it for the future.

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FUTURE AND ETERNAL PUNISHMENT.

A Sermon Delivered at Sewickleyville, Pa., on Sunday Morning, December 1st, 1867, by Rev. J. Horner, A. M.

"These shall go away into everlasting punishment; but the righteous into life eternal."—Matt. 25: 46.

There is perhaps no subject which to thoughtful minds is more full of interest than the condition which may be allotted to man in a future state of being. Finding it revealed that there is a future life, the mind feels itself drawn earnestly towards whatever may tend to lift the veil which hides its character, and to penetrate into all its mysteries. And when in the partial revelation which is made us of that state there are found intimations of a difference in the lot of men: a discrimination for certain characters and against certain others; then it becomes a matter of supreme importance to know the truth; and everything whose tendency may be to confirm us in the truth, and to clear away doubt from our mind is to be gladly accepted. On this specific question we would not enter the arena of controversy against one who rejected divine revelation. Our work at this particular point must needs be with one who makes the Bible an authoritative rule of doctrine, faith and practice on the ground that it is a revelation given us by God for this set purpose, and that its word is final.

Now men who profess to accept the Bible thus, and declare themselves ready to bow with implicit obedience to its dicta, have set forth radically different theories on this most vital subject. Thus, it is contended that the punishment of the wicked in a future life will be of endless, unlimited duration, and in part, at least, the direct penal infliction of God. Second, That it will be of a finite duration, and followed by a complete restoration to perfect bliss; the duration and intensity of the suffering being proportionate to the demerit of the course of our earthly life. Third, That the impenitent and unredeemed will be utterly and wholly annihilated.

Now it will be seen that each of these theories is in conflict with the others; in so far that if any one of them be established upon incontrovertible warrant of God's Word, then by that very fact there is demonstrated the falsity of the other two. We chiefly propose, therefore, to establish upon the testimony of Divine revelation and in some sort to vindicate the truth of the *first* of the before-named theories, *and in part at least the direct penal infliction of God.*

That the punishment of the wicked in a future life will be of endless, unlimited duration, and in part at least the direct penal infliction of God.

That punishment of some kind and at some time will be meted out to all that sin and reject Christ and are not, during this life, reconciled to God, is conceded by all the theories recited. Indeed, punishment for sin is allowed by all who recognize the Bible as the rule of faith, as certain to be meted out: though some contend that this punishment is meted out and completed during the present life; and that after the death of the body no sufferings on account of sins are inflicted or endured, to advert to this modification at this moment. It cannot be denied that all the miseries which are felt by man during the period of his earth-life are the consequences, directly or indirectly, of sin or sins; so that there can arise from them no question as to whether these are all that are to be endured by sinful man. If it is shown that punishment or suffering extends at all beyond the grave, or the period of the death of the body, then this theory falls to the ground. As we have seen, there is one settled and common ground upon which we may all stand without controversy, namely, that at some time and somewhere God will, as a punishment for sin. Now the very idea of a punishment for sin must involve the notion of what is required for the reformation of the offender, or of a just retribution and consequence as demanded by the nature and attributes of God's government. As to the first of these notions, it is manifest that no such result is in point of fact uniformly, or even usually accomplished by the sufferings occasioned by the misdoings of men in the present life. Of the most severe forms of punishments which it were possible to inflict upon men have notoriously failed in working reformation of life, a change of heart, or any conformity to the will and word of God. Men die in the midst of torment, and agony excruciating, have died with blasphemy upon their lips; exhibiting the concomitant manifestations of demon-like passions and the most profound moral nature. If it be said that death itself was the culminating punitive act in such cases—there are these manifest absurdities in the calling of death a punitive act on this theory—first that in the necessity of the case it is not visible, if any, actual suffering, the suffering of which we have spoken not being by any fixed necessity connected with death, and second, that death on that supposition opposed comes as an emancipation from pain and a release from suffering. It is, indeed, upon this theory, the opening of the doors to mansions of bliss, where happiness is unalloyed, and where all misfortune is at an end—a condition in which suffering is forever impossible. If, on the other hand, punishment for sins is looked upon as retributive and consequential in just measure, then, manifestly, the "sufferings of this present life" have in no case been with any such principles of absolute justice. For it very often happens that men whose whole course of life has been a persistent violation of God's law, and whose existence has been uniform in its wickedness only have passed through life with but very few marks outwardly of the divine displeasure, and have suffered but little from the stings of conviction and a guilty conscience. Indeed, even this latter source the most hardened and persistently sinners have often suffered the least, since they were strengthened in their power of silencing the voice of conscience by the force of habit, and by the deadening influence of sin. On the other hand it has frequently happened that men, the whole tenor of whose life had been one of obedience to God, and of unimpeachable integrity, only by a single act of offense against the laws of society or of God, nay, oftimes by the mere suspicion of such an offense, or of some detection, have been plunged into wretchedness and misery—into difficulties of the most intolerable character—from which, though innocent, they did not until death find release. Now, upon no principle of just retribution can the divine government in these cases be detected. If this is not the principle of punitive manifestation for sin. It is difficult to conceive what object or purpose of a good government could be subserved by punishment inflicted from any regretful, and upon no fixed principle, which very often subjected the innocent to suffering and let the guilty escape. Certainly that could afford only a very partial encouragement to virtue, and would afford but an imperfect barrier or warning against the designs and purposes of the wicked. Happily, however, a notion so repugnant to reason, and which gives so revolting an interpretation to the facts of experience, finds no warrant in the teachings of God's Word. For clearly our Saviorteaches that there is suffering and torment after death, as the direct result of sinfulness before death. Now, to this point we need not multiply passages. A single well attested case may settle this point. The appeal may be made confidently to the case of the rich man. "The rich man also died, and was buried; and in hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torment"—"torment," said he, "in these flames." His own statement is confirmed by Abraham, who contrasted his condition with that of Lazarus, who, in the bosom of Abraham, was "comfort tormented." It matters not, for our purpose, whether this is parable or history. In either case there is described to us the relative state of a good and a bad man after death. One is just as really in torment as the other. The torment of one is just as actual as the comfort of the other; and no one who accepts of the Bible ever doubts about the reality of the happiness of the good in a future state. Hence, this is positive proof of the existence of pain, suffering and torment, after death, as the punishment of lifetime offenses. We say nothing now of the character or degree, or duration of that suffering or torment; we insist only upon the fact. Thus, then, reason and scripture dispose of the theory which would limit suffering to the present life. And this punitive suffering having the ground of its existence in sin extends beyond the period of this present life, we return to our purpose to show *That in a future life the punishment of the wicked will be of endless, unlimited duration, and in part, at least, the direct infliction of God.*

Such we believe to be the representations of Holy Scripture. Thus, for example, there are words applied to it which are commonly used to convey the idea of endless, interminable, unlimited duration. Such are "eternal," "everlasting," "forever-and-ever." The terms descriptive of its duration are the same as those applied to the life of the righteous, and their reward. It is, however, objected that these same terms are used in the Old Testament to denote duration only of limited duration and that the same may also be the case here. And this may not be denied, that they are occasionally used, by an accommodated sense, of those things which are limited in their duration; but this rare and exceptional use can lead to no confusion if the terms are interpreted consistently with their connection and context, and where it can be ascertained by common custom and the intention of the person who employs them. We may examine for our purpose one of the words thus employed—the Greek word *aionios*, usually translated in the New Testament "eternal" and "everlasting," "forever and ever," and "world without end" (Rom. 16: 25; 2d Tim. 1, 9; Tit. 1, 2) three times. The expression translated "world began" (*chronon aionon*) properly translated would be "eternal times or periods," and the idea is not strictly of a duration in the future without end. In one passage, as stated, the word is rendered by "forever," namely, in Philemon, verse 15, where Paul says: "For perhaps he therefore departed for a season that thou should'st receive him forever, not now a servant, but a brother in the Lord," the idea conveyed being that the servant, now being converted, should never more be separated from Him, not even in eternity, since both were of the household of God and therein together would ever abide, the only contingency, as suggested in the "perhaps," being in the permanence of their mutual faith. The antithesis is plainly in the temporary departure, the brief season of the wanderer's absence, the coming eternity of reunion "in the Lord," beginning with his return, so that endless duration here also applies. In Luke xvi, 9, our Savior says: "Make to yourselves friends of the Mammon of unrighteousness that when ye fail they may receive you into everlasting habitations." Understanding the "mammon of unrighteousness" to be money or other wealth or possession, as the love of it is elsewhere termed "the root of all evil," and we have the advice to be so prudent in the use of our possessions as not to offend but to please "the friends" who have the power to receive to the "house not made with hands," from whence you will no more go out forever. The passage is one about which there is doubt, even as to the proper reading, but there seems no reason why the term endless duration may not here be the meaning of "everlasting," since our tabernacle is eternal in the heavens. A passage in Jude demands a passing notice: "Even as Sodom and Gomorrah are set forth for an example suffering the vengeance of *eternal fire.*" Here also the proper idea of endless duration is applicable, since what is here spoken of is perpetual, irrevocable, endless in its duration, since the example was to be everlasting. And certainly this cannot be brought against "eternal punishments," for the guilty inhabitants of these doomed cities are now in the eternal fire, and it is the fact that God inflicted sudden punishment upon them, and suddenly cast them into that fire eternal of which he had exhibited the types in their burning cities, which makes them set forth as an example. With respect now to the other passages in the New Testament, in which this word occurs, it is safe to assert that there is unquestionably the proper and full meaning of endless duration in the case of God—both past and future—in the other cases, of an unlimited duration, future from the starting point. In our text, the expression of our Savior is, "These shall go away into everlasting punishment, the righteous into everlasting life (life eternal)." The difference in the allotment of the two classes is accounted for by his statement, "I was an hungered and ye gave me no meat; I was thirsty and ye gave me no drink," &c., while the righteous are said to have done all these things. Thus the difference was the result of sin on the part and of obedience on the other; the one resulting from a practical unbelief, the other from faith that worked by love and purified the heart. It is said, however, that the intention in this passage is set in contrast, "life and punishment," and that in this antithetical presentation the proper antithesis of life is annihilation, the force of the word eternal being that the annihilation is total, and the decree never to be rescinded. But in the use of this word, elsewhere in the New Testament, there is no such notion as that of annihilation but the continuance of being, in a condition of suffering, and such is the almost invariable signification in the septuagent. Even where death is referred to as a punishment, it is still with the subjective or tacit idea of the sufferings of the future state of being. But life in this passage also must be understood in a positive sense. Life—happiness which alone makes life to be a blessing—and the proper antethesis of this happiness is not a mere blank, but the existence itself accompanied with the experience and gift of misery and torment, as the other is of bliss and accompanied with the experience and gift of happiness. And this view of the subject is confirmed by the fact that this final sentence is but the consummation of that sentence announced in the description of the final judgment which it closes: To the righteous will be said, "Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." And to the wicked, "Depart from me ye cursed into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels." So that "eternal life" is the kingdom prepared for the righteous; that is to say, the joys and blessedness in God's presence. Everlasting punishment is "the everlasting fire specifically prepared for the devil and his angels." 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Evidently the same external influences brought to bear upon him that are to be brought to bear upon the subjects of the general judgment. Its same nature as to the idea of annihilation is found in such expressions as "To go into hell, into the fire that shall not be quenched; where the worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched." Or, however, it might be with the idea involved in the expression "the fire is not quenched," namely, if it be contended that the fire continues ever, such an interpretation cannot be allowed to be given to the expression "the worm dieth not." For it must be admitted that what is thus described is something belonging to themselves—is their own, arises from and exists themselves, and therefore if it "dieth out" the irresistible conclusion follows that they in whom alone it can exist are not annihilated. And this fixes the interpretation of the clause "the fire is not quenched" to be that its action upon the wicked shall forever be maintained as will the fire itself.

For the view that after the general judgment the wicked will be totally annihilated, there is no foundation in any change which sin wrought in reference to the mortality or immortality of man, in the essential nature of humanity, either as to the body or the soul. It is freely conceded by the Divine Author of humanity, that whatever form came upon our race as the "wages of sin," so that pointing to the work of suffering and dissolution in all its stages we may ever say "and death, the last enemy," but it is not to be overlooked that this was so ordained in mercy to man, as a limitation to the evils of the lower animals; so therefore sin left the essential substance of man unchanged, but took him from that upon the use of which in the providence of his Creator he was placed under the free and unstinting or recuperating energy whereby the superstruction of death temporal was precluded.

That the misery of the lost arises in part at least from the positive allotment and infliction of God is clear. The "fire" is said to be "driven" into the place of punishment. God himself is represented as "a consuming fire." They are to "drink of the wine of the wrath of God which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation," and shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the lamb, and the smoke of their torment continueth up for ever and ever, and they have no rest day nor night;" their suffering as we have seen being characterized in the same way as is that of "the devil." It is in vain to endeavor to break off the force of these representations by saying that they refer to what is passing on earth, or that they are figurative, mere metaphors. For the proof is wholly wanting that they refer to the events of earth, or what is passing during the "life of probation." And if we grant that they are metaphorical and that we are not to understand literally "fire and brimstone," and such terms—this does not in the least help the cause of those who would deny the penal infliction of eternal punishment by God; for even figurative expressions must convey some real and literal meaning, and must not be so used as to convey a wrong meaning. The whole tenor and purport of the descriptions go to show that the reference is to the past-judgment state of those who persist in worshiping the image and retain the mark of the beast, and that whatever be the realities couched in the terms "fire," brimstone, &c., some application from without—external—must be intended, by which to inflict suffering as to the one as to the other. The torment of one is just as actual as the comfort of the other; and no one who accepts of the Bible ever doubts about the reality of the happiness of the good in a future state. Hence, this is positive proof of the existence of pain, suffering and torment, after death, as the punishment of lifetime offenses. We say nothing now of the character or degree, or duration of that suffering or torment; we insist only upon the fact. Thus, then, reason and scripture dispose of the theory which would limit suffering to the present life. And this punitive suffering having the ground of its existence in sin extends beyond the period of this present life, we return to our purpose to show *That in a future life the punishment of the wicked will be of endless, unlimited duration, and in part, at least, the direct infliction of God.*

Such we believe to be the representations of Holy Scripture. Thus, for example, there are words applied to it which are commonly used to convey the idea of endless, interminable, unlimited duration. Such are "eternal," "everlasting," "forever-and-ever." The terms descriptive of its duration are the same as those applied to the life of the righteous, and their reward. It is, however, objected that these same terms are used in the Old Testament to denote duration only of limited duration and that the same may also be the case here. And this may not be denied, that they are occasionally used, by an accommodated sense, of those things which are limited in their duration; but this rare and exceptional use can lead to no confusion if the terms are interpreted consistently with their connection and context, and where it can be ascertained by common custom and the intention of the person who employs them. We may examine for our purpose one of the words thus employed—the Greek word *aionios*, usually translated in the New Testament "eternal" and "everlasting," "forever and ever," and "world without end" (Rom. 16: 25; 2d Tim. 1, 9; Tit. 1, 2) three times. The expression translated "world began" (*chronon aionon*) properly translated would be "eternal times or periods," and the idea is not strictly of a duration in the future without end. In one passage, as stated, the word is rendered by "forever," namely, in Philemon, verse 15, where Paul says: "For perhaps he therefore departed for a season that thou should'st receive him forever, not now a servant, but a brother in the Lord," the idea conveyed being that the servant, now being converted, should never more be separated from Him, not even in eternity, since both were of the household of God and therein together would ever abide, the only contingency, as suggested in the "perhaps," being in the permanence of their mutual faith. The antithesis is plainly in the temporary departure, the brief season of the wanderer's absence, the coming eternity of reunion "in the Lord," beginning with his return, so that endless duration here also applies. In Luke xvi, 9, our Savior says: "Make to yourselves friends of the Mammon of unrighteousness that when ye fail they may receive you into everlasting habitations." Understanding the "mammon of unrighteousness" to be money or other wealth or possession, as the love of it is elsewhere termed "the root of all evil," and we have the advice to be so prudent in the use of our possessions as not to offend but to please "the friends" who have the power to receive to the "house not made with hands," from whence you will no more go out forever. The passage is one about which there is doubt, even as to the proper reading, but there seems no reason why the term endless duration may not here be the meaning of "everlasting," since our tabernacle is eternal in the heavens. 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Weekly Commercial.

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THE REPORT OF THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The report of the Finance Committee of the Senate, published specially in our columns to-day, is an elaborate and exceedingly important document, and will command universal attention. It is given to the country in connection with, and in support of, Senator SHERMAN's bill for the funding of the debt of the nation—which bill was unanimously ordered to be reported by the Finance Committee, subject to modification and amendment as to details. The questions considered by the report are: First—The funding of the public debt and the redemption of the bonds. Second—The State and National taxation of public securities. Third—The redemption and conversion of legal-tender notes. The conclusions arrived at by the Committee are substantially these: That Congress should now provide for the redemption of the bonds, as they become redeemable, by a new loan, on more favorable terms to the United States, and to secure to the holder of United States notes, as soon as practicable, their full value in gold. Public sentiment, both in this country and in Europe, would regard it as a breach of public faith to redeem the bonds in legal tender notes. The question is asked: Can the United States, in good faith, avail itself of the depreciation of its notes, to issue a greater amount of them than was provided for when the bonds were sold, and with them pay the bonds? It is held that no legal tender clause applies to a United States note, which is a promise to pay a specific sum, on demand, in gold or silver coin—the money of the world. During the war this was impracticable, and therefore the United States gave to the note every valuable quality possible, making it a legal tender for other debts. The obligation to pay this note in coin is a continuous obligation, and our failure to do so is the standing reproach of our financial system, and the cause of all the discussion that has arisen in regard to our bonds. The payment of the bonds in legal tenders would be an act of injustice and repudiation, would utterly destroy the value of the notes themselves, and lead to the repudiation of the great mass of paper money. The Committee is, therefore, of opinion that no legal tender notes, beyond the amount now limited by law, should be issued under any pressure of financial necessity, until they are convertible into coin. The great object is to bring the greenback up to the standard of gold. All schemes for paying the public debt with legal tenders, by increasing the volume beyond the sum of four hundred millions of dollars, are dismissed as inconsistent with the public faith. In regard to the taxation of the public securities, the Committee deem it wise to reserve, in lieu of local taxes, a specific rate on the entire public loan hereafter negotiated, and to distribute this among the States according to their population. The Committee argue in favor of restoring the right to convert United States notes into bonds, upon the principle that if we cannot pay our notes in coin we should do the next best thing—pay them in interest-bearing bonds. This will give greenbacks the market value of a bond, and release the Secretary of the Treasury from the power to contract the currency. The plan proposed establishes the maximum of currency at the amount fixed by law, and it may be diminished by payment for taxes and its conversion into bonds. It is believed that these processes would rapidly restore our currency to the standard of gold without the severe disturbance and uncertainty caused by the present system. This would make a currency convertible into bonds, and a debt convertible into currency—the fluctuations depending entirely upon the wants of trade, and not upon the discretion of the Secretary. It will only be when the demand for currency is urgent, and ought to be relieved, that the holder of a five per cent. annuity in gold will surrender it for currency. When money, in turn, becomes abundant, it will be converted into bonds. This process will relieve the necessities of trade, give increased value to both notes and bonds, and eventually restore both to the standard of gold. Then the banks will perform their appropriate function of furnishing a valuable currency convertible into coin.

In conclusion, the Committee allude to the cheerfulness with which the people of the United States have paid the vast aggregate of multitudinous taxes, forming a per capita greater than ever imposed by any other nation; and, if necessary to preserve the public faith, they would continue to do so. But the necessity no longer exists, and it is the duty of Congress to relieve a great number of the articles now taxed, and to simplify the mode of collecting the tax on the residue. This will be done at an early day, but it is regarded as indispensably necessary to first relieve the public mind from anxiety on the great financial questions embraced in the bill submitted in connection with the report.

The above are the leading features of the report, which should be carefully read and studied by all who can command the time. The arguments on the various points will be found most forcible and interesting, and will challenge the attention of all who take an interest in the financial questions and schemes now before the country.

VIRGINIA CONSERVATISM.

The indignation expressed by the rebel element of Virginia, in consequence of the radical stand taken by the Convention to form a State Constitution, culminated in the calling of what was styled a "Conservative State Convention," which was held at Richmond a few days ago. Among the resolutions adopted by this "conservative" body is the following:

"In the opinion of this Convention any constitution of Virginia ought to make all men equal before the law, and should protect the liberty and property of all."

Just think of it! A body composed of pro-slavery rebels, in session at Richmond, solemnly announcing the fundamental doctrine of the *legal equality of all men!* If this be Virginia conservatism, what may we not expect when those who now cry out against negro domination progress towards radical ideas? Equality before the law, and the protection of the liberty and property of white and black, is good conservatism now. It was rank revolutionary radicalism within a very recent period. How these Southern conservatives opposed and contemned the civil rights bill, is easily recollected. They were frantic with indignation at the very idea that Congress should guarantee protection to the persons and property of the freedmen; and now, under "conservative" auspices, they solemnly announce that very doctrine as a necessity, and want to ingraft it in their constitution! In this most notable instance of the progress of ideas in the Old Dominion, we can see what Congress has gained in its struggle with the President. Had the Civil Rights Bill failed, as the President and his supporters desired, the Conservatives of the South would never have been led to see and acknowledge the necessity of guaranteeing equality before the law, and protection to the liberty and property of black men. Never! But persistent adherence to right and justice is gradually bringing the rebels to their senses, and once we get them fairly on the march they will soon go forward, shoulder to shoulder, with the rest of us, in the great work of reconstruction on the stable basis of universal liberty and equality.

RAILROAD CONTROVERSY.

We are informed that a suit has been, or will in a few days be instituted in one of the Philadelphia courts, to decide whether about one mile of railroad is owned by the Pennsylvania or the Junction Railroad. This latter is a railroad of four and sixtenths miles long, connecting the Baltimore and New York Roads in West Philadelphia. JOHN EDGAR THOMSON, of the Pennsylvania Road, is also the President of this short road, and now claims that about one mile near the center is owned, and of course may be controlled by the Pennsylvania Road. The other Directors all claim the entire Junction road to be owned and controlled by the Junction Company, and claim it was built and paid for by them. The controversy has culminated in a suit at law, to decide upon the ownership of this mile of railroad.

THE frank and energetic private letter written by General GRANT to the President protesting against the removal of Secretary STANTON and the supersedure of SHERIDAN, just published, is an important addition to the already sufficient proof of his political sentiments and position. The President is plainly told that "though the law may be explained away by an astute lawyer, common sense and the loyal people will give to it the effect intended by its framers." And in regard to the removal of SHERIDAN his letter displays a warmth of regard—not to say genuine love—for the hero of the Shenandoah, which does him infinite credit and will endear him to the loyal people everywhere. And when he tells the President that they will not "quietly submit to see the very man of all others whom they have expressed their confidence in removed," he displays the spirit which the people desire to know animates the man they propose to make President.

THE letter purporting to have been written by General DENT, a brother-in-law of General GRANT, to a Charleston paper, wherein it is asserted that General GRANT will accept the nomination of no party, and must be taken, if at all, without a platform or even an avowal on his part, has been pronounced by General DENT a forgery, and "an invention to injure General GRANT." The worst of it is, the exposure spoils the editorials of the *Tribune* and one or two other papers, (there are but few of them,) gravely showing that it will never do to take General GRANT. The pronouncing of the letter by one speaking for General GRANT a forgery intended to "injure" him, is significant; for it amounts to giving notice that any assertion that General GRANT is not with the Republicans in principle, and will not accept a nomination on a square Republican platform, must be false.

THE *Tribune* wants Congress to declare that "every Southerner who has for at least three months past supported Reconstruction on the basis of equal rights for all citizens, and still supports it, shall, after making and filing his affidavit of the fact, be restored to all political rights and placed on the registry of his district as a voter." This it would have Congress do to end a the beginning the business of passing special enactments restoring the disabled in squads. The proposition is a sensible one; but the risk of having the rule abused would be considerable. A Senator lately said that in all the South not fifty thousand who would otherwise be voters are disfranchised. So that if they were all let in the heavens would not fall.

THE resolution passed by the House of Representatives, declaring that the Reconstruction laws shall stand, is a proper and timely answer to the sweeping denunciation of them by the President. We hope also that it may be accepted as meaning that they shall not be amended so as to enlarge the range of disabilities or enact confiscation. When Congress once begins to overhaul its own policy it will inevitably "go to sea."

England During the Rebellion.

The American people can never forget the wrong which they suffered at the hands of Englishmen in their depredations upon our commerce, nor will they lose sight of the fact that the English Government actually connived at and helped in these depredations. The *animus* of the British Government, and the conduct of a large and influential class of the English people towards us during the war, is now too apparent to be hid from the eyes of the world. New light is being shed upon this matter daily.

Captain Mayne Reed—a warm friend of America during the war—has recently written a letter, in which he refers to some views expressed by Newman Hall. This writer says:

"I, too, remember 'all that occurred in England during the civil war in the United States,' and regret having to record my testimony of the one occurrence in opposition to that voluntary tribute to the thing shed thrice. Instead of the governing 'opposing' to have been the 'sympathy' of the English people, the opposition was universally known to be hearty, and not to the thing shed thrice, but to the agree. If there was any seeming on the part of the English government, it was in its dip-sympathy and shame, not to speak of its *participation in the building of the outfit of the Alabama.* Even this was too transparent to deceive for a moment."

Captain Reed further says, that England's opposition to our Union, sprung from no love or sympathy for the South, or the rebellion itself, neither did it arise from any change of sentiment in regard to the negro. He adds that:

"England's professed sympathy for the South was more than even selfishness; it was the most wanton of wickedness. It boasted for its base an element of generosity. All the while it was but the cloak for envy. Its motive was neither manhood nor humanity. It did not, with both its hands, clutch the sword to have taken *your* side, and packed you with Sumters and Abrahams. Its sole purpose was to manipulate cotton, like a main cock, encouraging it to fight to the death, till both lay bleeding in the dust. Then would both be ripe for the knife, and not for Europe's loss, to be *reconstructed* according to the ideas of European despotism."

This position is well taken, and is amply supported and made good by innumerable facts, and everybody must see the truth of the statement. On reflecting upon this antagonism of Great Britain to us in the darkest days of the rebellion, we confess to holding a pretty large sympathy with Senator Chandler in the views expressed in his speech the other day urging this nation to recognize the belligerent rights of Abyssinia. His proposition was couched in the very language of that English proclamation of neutrality issued at the commencement of our civil war in 1861 with a mere change of names. We do not think it would be wise to adopt Mr. Chandler's proposition while these Alabama claims are pending; but the time may come when Great Britain may find her own "inventions return to plague the inventor."

The Anthracite Coal Trade.

It is a fact not generally known that all the anthracite coal in the world—so far as developed—is embraced in the Wyoming, Carbondale and Nanticoke districts of Pennsylvania, the coal basin being about fifty miles in length, with an average width of but four miles. The Susquehanna flows through the center of this valley, and the soil, extending up almost to the tops of the mountains, is rich and productive. Vast beds of the purest anthracite extend along the entire valley, and crop out on the sides and at the foot of the mountains. By sinking shafts coal is found anywhere in the valley. In strata of various thicknesses. Taking all the veins together, there are about sixty feet of available coal under the entire valley—enough to supply many generations. These deposits were known half a century ago, but it is only of late years that capitalists have invested largely in mining the coal. When its great utility was fully demonstrated, millions of dollars were speedily invested, and the business was soon overdone. During the war anthracite coal companies became a mania, similar to the petroleum operations of this region. The markets became glutted, prices declined, and stockholders clamored in vain for dividends. Mining operations are now conducted on a very limited scale, and, to use a common but expressive phrase, "there is no money in the business." While no dividends may be realized for two or three years to come, on the millions of capital invested, yet the stock certificates are regarded as prospectively valuable, from the fact that the country must be supplied from this little spot. Large capitalists are gradually absorbing all the coal lands, to the exclusion of individual operators and the smaller companies, thus preventing competition as far as possible. The tendency is toward wealthy monopolies, and in a short time it will be impossible for any person "out of the ring" to purchase land enough on which to sink a shaft. The small extent of the lands renders this process of absorption entirely feasible. The prospects for the coming year are no better than the present state of affairs, and many individual stockholders, and even entire, companies will be willing to sell out for whatever they can get. The old and wealthy companies are alive to all such opportunities, and readily take advantage of them. It is predicted that, before many years, when the trade shall come under the control of a few extensive monopolies it will prove immensely profitable to all who may be fortunate or sagacious enough to hold the stock. It is asserted that there is no probability of the supply of anthracite now on hand being diminished for at least a year to come, and that the prices will not be materially enhanced. This is an important fact to many persons here, in the heart of the bituminous coal region, as large quantities of "hard coal" are consumed here, and is found indispensable for a variety of purposes.

An earthquake shock was felt in Montreal yesterday morning.

PUBLIC FINANCES.

AN IMPORTANT REPORT.

FUNDING THE PUBLIC DEBT.

REDEMPTION OF FIVE-TWENTIES.

Taxation of Public Securities.

Question for Congress, Not the Hustings.

Views of Senate Finance Committee.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, December 17, 1867.

The following is substantially the important report made by the Senate Finance Committee, to-day, on the financial situation, and in expectation and support of its bill to fund the debt of the Government: The Committee on Finance to whom was referred so much of the President's message as relates to the public debt, and the report of the Secretary of the Treasury on the state of the finances, is called upon to report upon two important subjects necessarily connected with each other: First, the funding of the public debt, and as an incident to it the redemption of the bonds commonly known as the 7-30 bonds; second, the taxation, State and National, of public securities; and third, the redemption and conversion of United States notes or legal tender currency. Questions are presented in regard to each of these, the solution of which ought not to be delayed. These are as to the mode of the payment of the public debt, seriously affecting public credit. There is widespread complaint as to the exemption of public securities from taxation, and the evils of a depreciated and inconvertible currency are manifest, both in public and private business, that the early attention of Congress is properly called to them by the executive authorities. It should be the effort of Congress not merely to declare and obey the existing law, but to adopt a comprehensive policy that will preserve the public faith, restore confidence to the people, stability to our business interests, and yet will appeal to the sense of justice of our constituents, if it is unhappily drawn into the arena of party politics. Financial matters ought not to be in any sense partisan, but they may become so. Unless Congress can adopt a policy meeting all the requisites named, the contest on these most delicate and difficult questions may be transferred to the *hustings* where the heat of party strife may lead to dangerous results.

Before examining the several provisions of the bill, your Committee beg leave to state the present condition of the public debt. It consists of numerous forms of public securities, nearly all of which grew out of the urgent necessities of the late war. The calls for money to maintain the army and navy were so imperative that many different forms of loan were resorted to, and as a means to enable the Government to reach the resources of the people a currency was improvised. This currency now forms a part of the public debt, and being a legal tender in the payment of debts is in the nature of a compulsory loan, without interest. It has proved so convenient a currency that aside from the advantages the Government derives from it by the saving of interest, and the profits now is of great importance in promoting enterprise and the exchange of domestic products. It only remains, either by reducing the amount or by other means of increasing its value to the standard of gold, to make it the only the most favorable of loans, but the best currency devised. During the war the debt could only be contracted at high rates of interest, but the result is doubled to the Senate at a later period of the session, but for present purposes this debt may be regarded as a part of the current expenditure, and need not be considered in any plan funding the public debt, and will be paid entirely upon future action of Congress.

This fact will restrain Congress from adopting principles which will swell its amount. Every new bounty bill, every new railroad subsidy, every new abandonment of legal-tender notes for improvement, every new principle adopted in the settlement of claims growing out of the war, will involve new taxes or new loans. Therefore as an incident to every such measure, there should be a new tax levied or a new loan made. The vague and indefinite appropriations of money by Congress growing out of the vast expenditures during the war can no longer be continued without the utter destruction of the national credit or such an increase of our taxes as will bring back to these halls new faces and new names. It is idle to disguise the fact that the increase of our extraordinary taxes and weight of taxes have alarmed the people.

Dismissing the unliquidated debt as depending entirely on the future prudence of Congress, we come to consider the present condition of the 5-20 loans. As all of these are of the same legal character, differing only in their dates and time of redeemability, it will only be necessary to examine the law under which the original bonds were issued. After these acts took effect, the 5-20 bonds were negotiated. These second acts form the contract under which they were issued. No subsequent act of Congress can vary that contract without the consent of the holder of the bond, and the contract must be construed according to the intention of the parties at the time, gathered from the words of the bond, and the practical construction put by the Government upon similar words, and from the authorized declarations of the agents of the Government in negotiating the bonds. In construing this contract the rules of necessity should induce us to violate any provisions of it, even if its execution is difficult or its terms hard. The Government of the United States has always faithfully observed its promises to public creditors, and will not now sanction any violation of them. But justice to its people who must, from their earnings and by taxes make good these promises, demand that we should not impose burdens upon them not required by a fair construction of public engagements.

The question, now arises whether 5-20 bonds are redeemable at the expiration of five years from their date in any other money than the coin of the United States. If this question rested solely upon the act of February 25th, 1862, and the bonds had been negotiated under that act alone, it would be manifestly a breach of faith to redeem the bonds with the present United States notes. They are very different from the first legal tender notes, which from the very limited amount authorized, and the privilege to convert them into bonds, could not have had a less relative value than the bonds. But it was found that with such restrictions upon the notes the bonds could not be negotiated, and it became necessary to depreciate the notes in order to create a market for the bonds. The limit of notes was trebled, and the right to convert them taken away. The amount of United States notes in circulation when the bonds were negotiated was equal to the amount now outstanding, so that the question arises whether by the terms of these several acts the bonds may be redeemed with notes of the precise character paid for the bonds when negotiated by the United States. The law does not expressly provide that the principal is payable in coin, but does provide that the interest shall be paid in coin, thus raising the implication that the principal may not be.

To meet this implication, it is shown that by the established policy of the Government the principal of the public debt has always been paid in coin without any stipulation to that effect. Your committee has examined the various loan acts of the United States, and find no express stipulation to pay in coin, but coin has always been paid not only for the interest, but for the principal, both funded and unfunded, both for bonds and treasury notes. This establishes the presumption that all public debts are payable in coin, unless the law under which they are issued expressly provides that they may be paid in a different mode, and this stipulation must be made before the loan is negotiated.

The act under which the 5-20 bonds were issued also provides for the issue of United States notes, and declares that these notes shall be lawful money and a legal tender in payment of all debts, public or private. These notes were issued to an amount of $400,000,000 before the bonds were negotiated. It is claimed that this provision negatives the implication drawn from the payment of the previous loans in coin, especially as when previous loans were made and paid no other kind of money existed, or could have been contemplated. It is said, however, that the distinguished Secretary of the Treasury, who negotiated the 5-20 loan, gave a construction to this act at the time the loan was offered, that this was additional to the pledge and upon the faith of this the loan was taken. Your committee can find no official declaration made by the Secretary on this subject until after the loan was negotiated. On the 18th of May, 1864, he writes to Mr. Hooper, that "it has been the constant usage of the Department to redeem all coupon and registered bonds forming part of the funded or permanent debt of the United States in coin, and this usage has not been deviated from during my administration of its affairs. The 5-20 6's being payable twenty years from date, though redeemable after five years, are considered as belonging to the funded or permanent debt, and so also are the twenty year 6's, into which the three year seven-thirty notes are convertible. These bonds, therefore, according to the usage of the Government, are payable in coin."

It is claimed that this language used long after the bonds were negotiated cannot show the understanding of the parties when the bonds were taken, and that it does not amount to a construction of the law at that time. It simply affirms an admitted fact, that the usage of the government had been to pay all its bonds in coin. The same declaration might have been made as to all issues of Treasury notes, compound interest notes, or certificates of indebtedness, all of which are now paid in lawful money.

Again, it is said that the agent employed by the Secretary did in his advertisement affirm that the Government was authorized to pay in coin; that this construction were acquiesced in by Congress, and induced thousands to take these bonds who would not otherwise have done so, and this is replied that such a promise is not in accordance with the plain language of the law, and is not a binding construction of the law. No doubt the agent supposed that before five years expired specie payments would be resumed, so that at the end of five years after the war was over, greenbacks would still be depreciated. The advertisement was a supposition of a state of facts to occur five years thereafter, or like a legal construction of a public law accessible to all men, and it is contended that conceding that the agents of the Government construed the the law as binding the United States to pay the principal of the debt in coin, this construction was not so generally acquiesced in and adopted by both parties to the contract as to create a moral obligation which the United States is bound to execute to the letter. It is time that this construction was so generally admitted as to make it a part of the contract.

Congress uniformly refused to declare this construction as to the 5-20 bonds, but did do so as to the 7-30 bonds, and it is a further and very significant fact that every State in the Union, with perhaps the exception of Massachusetts, put a different construction on this act. Every State has taxed the 5-20 bonds in precisely the same position as the National debt. Its bonds had uniformly been paid, principal and interest in coin, and yet under the law declaring their public faith was complied with when they tendered principal or interest in legal tender notes, and this construction was acquiesced in by their creditors. So with corporations and private citizens all have based their action upon this law and custom had been previously paid in coin. They considered themselves and were released by payment in legal tenders. Now by well established principle of the law of contracts, when it is sought to vary the meaning of the words of a contract by a contemporaneous construction, it must be shown that both parties acquiesced in it, and understood the words in precisely the same sense, otherwise the words of the contract must govern.

When a general rule is laid down, and an exception is made, that there are no other exceptions. Duties on imported goods and interest on the public debt are excepted from the legal tender clause. This implies the principal of the debt not excepted. The construction of law from the payment of previous loans in gold is answered by the fact that the act under which this loan was issued expressly declares that a note shall be lawful money as well as gold, and shall be receivable in payment of the public debt. The argument that a construction was put upon the law by the agents of the United States is answered by the fact that it was not a mutual construction, recognized by both parties as a part of the contract, but was rather an opinion, based upon a supposition of a state of facts which, when the five years expired, did not actually exist.

It is clear that if the bonds are payable when due in legal tenders, they are redeemable after five years from the date in the same kind of money. The word payable imports a duty or obligation which these bonds and coupons stipulated. The word redeemable implies a discretionary power which may or may not be exercised. But the same kind of money in the same mode tendered will redeem a note or pay a note.

Your committee have deemed it their duty thus to present the argument in favor of redeeming the bonds in legal tender notes, for it is claimed that the faith of the Government would be violated by many who disclaim all purpose to evade the public engagements. Still the admitted fact remains that these bonds were generally taken upon the supposition that they would be redeemed in coin, that the uniform policy declared by the authorized agents of the Government in negotiating the loan; that such declaration must have been known by Congress and was not negatived; that it was sanctioned in the statement of the Secretary of the Treasury, that upon the faith of it the bonds have been continually higher in market value than the notes, and that a public sentiment, both in this country and in Europe, would regard it as a breach of public faith to redeem.

Public credit is so sensitive a quality that time cannot restore it when impaired. It is better far to forego a doubtful privilege if in the judgment of the Government the right is doubted to exercise it. But the doubt should be promptly removed. The discussion of the question manifestly impairs the public credit. Until it is settled no new loan can be negotiated. The public mind becomes accustomed to the idea of repudiation, and the wildest schemes of paper money, worthy of the days of George Law, poison the fountains of public and private credit. It has been proposed that Congress, by joint resolution, declare that the 5-20 bonds are redeemable only in gold. This, instead of settling the question, will only create divisions and parties, and the resolution, when passed, will be subject to agitation and repeal.

Your Committee have heretofore considered this question as involving only whether the present United States notes, limited as they are to $400,000,000, can be applied to the redemption of the bonds. The question now arises, on the United States in good faith avail itself of the depreciation of its notes to issue a greater amount of them than was provided for when the 5-20 bonds were sold, and with them to pay the bonds? What is a United States note? It is a promise by the United States to pay a specific sum on demand. No legal tender clause applies to this note. It is concluded that the money of the world, gold or silver coin, is the only money that can perform this note. During the war this was impracticable, and therefore the United States gave to the note every valuable quality possible. It was made a lawful money and a legal tender for other debts. But the obligation to pay this note in coin at the earliest moment practicable is a continuous obligation. Our failure to do it is the standing reproach of our financial system. It is the cause of all the discussions that have arisen in regard to our bonds. Until our promise is made good to pay the United States notes in coin or its equivalent on demand, we must suffer the reproach of partial repudiation. This does not consist merely in proposing to redeem our bonds in lawful money, but does consist in allowing our lawful money or promises to pay on demand to continue to be less valuable than gold or silver coin.

Payment of the bonds in existing notes would not materially affect the market value of the bonds, for the market value of the notes depends, as it would be by the provisions of this bill, would make both notes and bonds approach nearer the standard of gold. The present issue of notes is held by the people and cannot be drawn into the Treasury except by taxation. We have already largely diminished internal taxes, and cannot hope to receive over $50,000,000 in currency, in excess of our expenditures. It is manifest that such an internal revenue is insufficient to redeem our bonds, unless aided by a further issue of notes or a new loan. To pay off the original 5-20 loan, the only one now redeemable, will require $400,000,000 more of paper money, to be still further increased as other loans become redeemable.

This alarming proposition has been made and is justified by the assertion that the bond holders have received 25 per cent. United States notes when gold was high and are compensated by payment in legal tenders. It is true that some of the latter bonds were paid for when legal tenders were largely depreciated, but with excessive issue, and the uncertain result of the war. But the first loan of $500,000,000 now to be redeemed, was sold at par when gold averaged about 35 per cent. premium.

By reference to the market price of gold in New York during the summer and fall of 1863, it appears that this loan was sold at an average price of 74 cents in gold. The same bond can now be bought in the market in New York at 70 cents in gold. If you pay these bonds in legal tenders, limited in amount, as they are now, to less than $400,000,000, and with the privilege conferred by this bill, the holders of the bonds will realize 70 cents in gold, and will have the advantage of a rapid approximation of his notes or bonds to the gold standard. If we increase our paper money to an amount sufficient to pay the first loan, he will not receive over thirty in gold, if, indeed, this act of injustice and repudiation does not, by destroying the public credit, utterly destroy that in which you propose to pay a debt contracted when the energies of the country were confident of its overthrow, when foreign nations and a large portion of our own people anticipated the permanent division of the Union.

This course once entered upon, the first debt thus paid, the rest will follow. Confidence thus destroyed, all values affected, the duties of the people will compel them to resort to barter the gold and to the utter repudiation of the mass of paper money. So it was with the continental money. So it was with the French assignats. Your committee are therefore of opinion that no legal tender notes beyond the amount now limited by law should be issued under any pressure of financial or political necessity, until they are convertible into gold and silver. Our duty is to elevate the greenback, the standard of National credit, to the standard of gold, the money of the world. Until then we are not on a substantial foundation.

Let us make the dollar of our promise in the pocket of a laboring man equal to the dollar of our mint. The rapidity of the process is a question of public policy. It may be by gradually diminishing the volume of currency, or be left at its present amount, until increased business or improved credit brings it up to the specie standard. The discretion left with the Secretary to diminish it may be withdrawn, limited or extended as public policy dictates, but no necessity, no plausible pretext to diminish the burdens of taxation can justify us in increasing the volume of legal tenders, now that the war is over. We should look squarely and hopefully to the time when we will pay gold, not only to the holder of our bonds, but to all persons in public or private business. Not only is this obvious public policy, but it is the express agreement with the public creditors.

On the 30th of June, 1864, at the darkest period of the war, when it was feared that the amount of legal tenders would destroy our ability to borrow money, we provided in the second section of the loan act of that date, "nor shall the total amount of United States notes issued or to be issued ever exceed $400,000,000, and any additional sum not exceeding $50,000,000 as may be temporarily required for the redemption of the temporary loan." This stipulation is a part of the terms upon which the 7-30 loan was issued, and is as binding upon the United States as any other part of the contract. It received the unanimous vote of Congress so far as the journals show, and was plainly demanded by public policy at the time, and was a pledge of public faith. Shall this be violated under the pretense of diminishing the public burdens? Every increase of legal tenders impairs the value of our public securities. If we may violate this, we may violate any other part of the contract.

Your Committee therefore dismiss as inconsistent with the public faith any scheme of paying the public debt with legal tenders by increasing this volume beyond the sum of $400,000,000. The surplus revenue can rapidly be applied to the payment of the 5-20s, as is now daily done, by the purchase of our securities in the open market. Your Committee are satisfied that the funds, with the aid of such a loan as is provided in the bill herewith submitted, will redeem the 5-20 loans as they become redeemable, with a large saving to the public Treasury, and in strict accordance with the public engagements.

In the new loan your committee deem it essential to adjust the question of taxation, State and National, on the public securities. The exemption of these securities from State and local taxation is a principal cause of complaint and irritation. It is difficult to reconcile the duty of the United States to preserve unimpaired its undoubted power to borrow money on the public credit with the reasonable demand that all property should bear its just proportion of the burdens of taxation. Your committee can only claim that they have given the subject the most careful consideration, and submitted a plan to free from objection as any that has been proposed. The exemption of public securities is not the result of an act of Congress. It grows out of the provisions of the Constitution of the United States which secures to Congress the power to borrow money and the supreme nature of that power is it cannot be affected or limited by the act of any State or local government. In this construction was not so generally acquiesced in and adopted by both parties to the contract as to create a moral obligation which the United States is bound to execute to the letter. It is time that this construction was so generally admitted as to make it a part of the contract.

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Weekly Commercial.

EUROPE.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

Press Censorship.

PARIS, December 18, 1867.—The *Moniteur* publishes a circular, signed by the Prefect on Police, placing the Press of the city under more rigorous censorship.

The Fenian Funerals.

DUBLIN, December 18.—The examination of John Martin and others connected with the funeral demonstration on the 8th inst., was concluded yesterday, but the decision of the court was reserved. This morning the accused was again brought before the magistrate, and Mr. Martin and Mr. Lalor were committed for trial on a charge of misdemeanor. They immediately furnished the requisite bail and were discharged from custody.

The Franco-Austrian Policy.

ST. PETERSBURG, December 18.—The *Journale Russe* says the policy agreed upon between France and Austria on the Eastern question, if persisted in, will imperil the tranquility of Europe.

The Italian Parliament.

FLORENCE, December 18.—Prime Minister Menabrea replied yesterday to the attacks made upon the Government by the Liberal party in Parliament. In the course of his speech he said Italy would sooner or later possess Rome, but that end would be accomplished not by arms but by moral force. Baron Ratazzi followed in a speech in opposition to the chief minister, saying the popular vote in Naples and other cities of Italy showed the nation demanded a different policy.

Fenian Arms Seized.

LONDON, December 18.—Arms and ammunition secreted by Fenians had been discovered and seized by the police at several places in England.

Incendiarism by King Theodore.

LONDON, December 18.—A dispatch from Massowah says: A report from the interior reached the British expedition that King Theodore had set fire to and destroyed Debra Tabor.

Another Fenian Attempt to Blow up a Jail.

LONDON, December 18.—Another attempt was made to-day to blow up the city prisons. Powder was placed under the wall of the Mill Bank jail, in which a number of Fenians are confined. The preparations were all completed and the fuse had been lighted by the conspirators without attracting attention. Owing to some defect in the arrangement of the materials, the powder did not explode and the plot was discovered before the attempt could be renewed. No arrests were made and no clue to the guilty parties.

London Money Market.

LONDON December 18.—Consols, 92 9-16; 5-20s, 72; Illinois Central, 80¾; Erie, 40¾.

Frankfort Money Market.

FRANKFORT, December 18.—United States bonds, 70¾.

Liverpool Markets.

LIVERPOOL, December 18.—Cotton closed at an advance of ⅛d for middlings. Uplands in port 7¾d; to arrive 8d; do Orleans 8¼d. Breadstuffs.—Corn 46s 9d. Wheat—California white 13s 2d; No. 2 red western 12s 7d; other articles unchanged.

Provisions—Beef 112s 6d; for winter cured pork 67s 6d. Lard 56s. Cheese 72s. Bacon 58s 6d.

Produce—Sugar dull. Rosin—common 6s 9d; medium 8s. Petroleum, 2s for spirits and 1s 4d for refined.

Antwerp Petroleum Market.

ANTWERP, December 18.—Petroleum closed dull at 45 francs, 25c.

The Paris Bourse.

PARIS, December 18.—There was a reaction in feeling on the bourse to-day, and rentes were flat.

ANOTHER HORROR

TERRIBLE RAILROAD DISASTER.

Train Precipitated Over Embankment.

Forty-eight Persons Burned to Death.

List of Killed, Wounded and Missing.

BUFFALO, December 18.—The New York Express train from Cleveland on the Lake Shore Road, due here at 12:45 P. M., being behind time, when two miles this side of Angola, either from a defect in the rail or frost, met with a serious accident about three o'clock this afternoon. The two rear passenger cars were thrown off the track, and rolled over an embankment of twenty feet. A train with surgeons, officers of the road, and others, left at four o'clock, to render assistance. The killed and wounded are expected here at nine o'clock, and every preparation is being made by the citizens to make the wounded comfortable. The following is a list of the killed and wounded ascertained:

—Mrs. J. M. Strong, of Buffalo; man, residence unknown; J. P. agent of the road at the State line.

D.—Anna Maria Gates, Corfu, N. Y.; Mary Moore, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Mary Sheldon and child, Corfu; Mrs. A. B. Thomas, Utica, N. Y.; R. M. Russel, Franklin, Tenn.; W. L. Retlink, James Brown, Buffalo; Mr. Laing and two children, Groton; Mary Sachs, Corfu, New York; Robert and Mrs. McCarthy, Princeton, Ills.; Danl. Carr, Brooklyn; Lydia Strong, Buffalo; Ira Babcock and wife, Syracuse; Mr. Forbush, Buffalo; Robert Stewart and wife Oneida; Mrs. Hamlin, Buffalo; Winnie McCarthy, Lowell, Mass.; W. H. Moore, Brooklyn; Albert Riversburg, Albion, N. Y.; J. C. Cribb, Salem, Pa.; A. H. Thomas, Utica; M. Copely, Minneapolis, Minn.; W. H. Teller, Utica; Mrs. L. H. Thomas, Keosha, Wis.; Garrett Harley, Utica, Pa.; J. M. Ayer, N. Y.; Charles W. Layne, Utica.

MISSING—Stephen Stewart, President of the Oil Creek road.

SECOND DISPATCH.

BUFFALO, December 18.—The accident at Angola was more serious than at first reported. The rear car went over an embankment of fifty feet, was set on fire, and out of fifty passengers only eight escaped. Twenty were burned to death, and all that is left of them is a mass of blackened and charred remains, without any means of ascertaining their names.

The accident occurred at Big Sisters bridge, a quarter of a mile east of Angola. One train with the unhurt passengers and a few of the wounded arrived here about half past nine. The balance of the wounded will be here about twelve. Every preparation is being made to care for their wants by citizens. Inquests are now being held at Angola on the killed. A large number of physicians of Buffalo left on the four o'clock special train to assist the wounded.

In addition to those already reported killed, the following are mentioned: Jasper Fuller and wife, Spartansburg, Pa.; Mr. Graves, residence unknown; W. H. Rose, North Bend, Pa.; B. Forbush; Buffalo; Mrs. Dr. Freeman, Norwich; Mr. Hubbard, St. Catharines, C. W.; Frank Walker, Buffalo.

Additional wounded—Henry Jackson, Ills.; S. T. Howard, N. Y.; James Walsh, Brooklyn; W. C. Patterson, Oil Creek; Mrs. Fisher, Minnesota. Insensible—Charles P. Wood, Buffalo; A. T. Fisher, Owanatta, Minn.

GRANT, STANTON, SHERIDAN.

Grant's Private Letter to the President.

Protest Against Removals.

WASHINGTON, December 17.—The Speaker laid before the House to-day a communication from General Grant, enclosing the correspondence relating to the removal of Mr. Stanton as Secretary of War, and also the removal of Generals Sheridan and Sickles. Nearly all the correspondence has been heretofore published, but the following is the private letter of Gen. Grant to President from General Grant, about which so much curiosity has been expressed:

[Private.]

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES, WASHINGTON, D. C., August 11, 1867.

His Excellency, Andrew Johnson, President of the United States:

SIR—Take the liberty of addressing you privately on the subject of the conversation we had this morning. Feeling as I do the danger to the welfare of the country, should you carry out the designs then expressed, first on the subject of the displacement of the Secretary of War; and removal cannot be effected against his will without the consent of the senate. It was that which prevented the United States Senate was in session, and why not then have asked for his removal if it was decided? It certainly was the intention of the legislative branch of the Government to place a Cabinet Minister beyond the power of hasty executive removal, and it is pretty well understood, so far as Cabinet Ministers are affected by the tenure of office bill, that it was intended especially to protect the Secretary of War, in whom the country felt great confidence, from the meaning of the bill being thrown away by an astute lawyer, but common sense and the views of its framers will give to it the effect intended by its framers.

Second. On the subject of the removal of the very able commander of the Fifth Military District, let me ask you to consider the effect it would have upon the people. His universality as a favorite, created by the people, who sustained this Government throughout its trials, and feared by those who would still use means of the Government for the benefit of a lot of but few men to do as much against an enemy as General Sheridan did and would remain, and it is within the scope of the ability of but few in this or any country to do which has. His civil administration has given equal satisfaction. The bad and difficulties to contend with which no other District Commander has encountered, and the short time (not from display) he was appointed District Commander, to the present time, from the number of troops that was to be removed; that the Administration was dissatisfied. This has emboldened the opponents of the laws of Congress and the constitution, and driven him in every way in their power, and has rendered necessary measures which under other circumstances have been necessary.

In addition, allow me to say as a friend desiring peace and quiet, the welfare of the whole country, North and South, that it is in my opinion more than the loyal people of this country—I mean those who supported the Government during the great rebellion—it is important to see the very man of all others who they have expressed their confidence in removed. I would not have taken the liberty of addressing the Executive of the United States thus, but for the conversation on the subject alluded to in this letter and from a sense of duty, feeling that I know I am right in the matter, with great respect, your obedient servant. [Signed] U. S. GRANT.

Among the papers is a letter to Gen. Grant from Maj. Gen. Sheridan, dated New Orleans, January 24, 1867, in relation to matters in Texas, particularly referring to the condition of Union men and freedmen in different parts of the State, which he says is truly horrible. He says the Government is denounced, freedmen are shot, and Union men persecuted, if they have the temerity to express their opinion. This letter Gen. Grant, under date of Headquarters of the Army of the United States, January, 29 1867, indorsed as follows:

"Respectfully forwarded to the Secretary of War. Attention is invited to that portion of the within communication which describes the condition of the Union men and freedmen in Texas, and to the powerlessness of the military in the present state of affairs to afford them protection. Even the moral effect of the presence of the troops is vanishing away, and a few days more, or a month of soldiers on duty was freed, in my opinion the great number of murders of Union men and of freedmen in Texas, are not only as a rule unpunished, but uninvestigated, and the military practically in a state of insurrection. And believing it to be the province and duty of every freed Government to afford protection to the lives, liberty and property of her citizens, I would recommend declaration of martial law in Texas to secure these ends. The increasing disregard for authority in our territory by martial law is to be deplored, and if reported it should be limited in its exercise by authority, and should leave the courts, and civil tribunals free and unobstructed in all they prove their inefficiency or unwillingness to perform their duties. Martial law would give security to person and property now unknown, and without regard to race, color or political opinions, and could be continued until society was capable of protecting itself, or until Congress can provide for our relations with the Union. The application of martial law in one of these states would be a warning to all, and if necessary can be extended to others.

(Signed) U. S. GRANT, General.

No action was had by the civil authorities upon the foregoing recommendation.

THE DARK SIDE.

Terrible Case of Destitution in New York —a Mother, Driven to Despair, Poisons Her Four Children and Herself.

(From the New York World, of Monday.)

Several months ago, Mrs. Anna Boone and her family, consisting of two boys and two girls, hired apartments on the third floor of the new tenement house, No. 29 Amity place, located near the corner of Bleecker street. The family appeared very respectable, and of unusual intelligence, and seemed in point of respectability far above the average of those who generally seek lodgings in tenement houses. Mrs. Boone, who was somewhat of an invalid, and was known to the other residents of the house as a widow, was very distant and reticent in her manners, as were also her children, and made few acquaintances among those who dwelt with her under the same roof. The children were well behaved and intelligent, and appeared to be much better educated than those with whom they were surrounded. Notwithstanding the air of culture and refinement possessed by this family they appeared to be very poor indeed, as was noticed by those who received no visitors. The gossiping neighbors set the new comers down as a family suddenly reduced from wealth to poverty, and who had been for some reason or other abandoned by their relatives and friends. Conjecture, however, as Mrs. Boone made no confidantes, and paid little or no attention to the various rumors floating about among the rest of the tenants as to her forlorn condition and her apparent poverty. The advent of the family was a nine days' wonder to her neighbors, and the gossips finding no food for their surmises and conjectures, let the matter drop to seize on another and more interesting topic. It is now observed, however, that the family gradually assumed a more poverty-stricken appearance, and the lean and haggard countenances of the mother and children were the subject of remark as they were seen leaving or re-entering the house. So matters proceeded until yesterday morning, when an event occurred which has created an intense excitement in the neighborhood, being no less than an attempt by Mrs. Boone to terminate the existence of herself and children by poison. It appears that during Saturday night strange and peculiar sounds were heard proceeding from the apartments occupied by the Boone family. This somewhat alarmed the inmates of the house, as heretofore quiet had reigned there supreme. These noises continued all night, and at two o'clock yesterday, a Mr. Boardman, who resides on one of the lower floors of the house, convinced that something was wrong determined to investigate the matter. He went out into the street, and finding officer Rae, of the Fifteenth Precinct, patrolling through Amity street, he called him and informed him of his suspicions. Officer Rae at once proceeded to the house, and, ascending to the room occupied by the Boone family, rapped for admission. Receiving no answer, and finding the door locked, the officer burst in the door and there found the widow Boone lying dead with her four children, Daniel, aged thirteen; Grace, aged twelve; Marcella, aged eleven, and William, aged nine—all lying on the floor, apparently writhing in the agonies of death. As it was then found that the deceased had procured by coal gas, Officer Rae obtained the assistance of Officer Gillen and the sufferers were carried into the front room. Two physicians were immediately summoned, and, after examining the family, decided that they were suffering from the effects of some narcotic poison. The usual remedies were applied and by advice of the physicians the whole family were conveyed in carriages to Bellevue hospital. On the way to the hospital, Mrs. Boone recovering sufficiently, officer Gillen questioned her about what had occurred, when she confessed that she had administered laudanum to her children, and then swallowed a dose of the same poison herself. She also stated that she had procured two of her children a small quantity of the laudanum, and had taken the largest quantity herself. On being asked what had induced her to commit such a fearful crime, she at first hesitated, and then stated that she belonged to very respectable family, but had been abandoned by her relatives and friends. She was entirely destitute, and not being able to support herself and family, preferred that death should all terminate their existence by poison than starve, which seemed the only alternative. On arriving at the hospital the family were taken in charge by the house physician, who is assisting no effort to save the life of the unfortunate family, and with a fair prospect of success. Last evening the children were doing well, and were considered out of danger, but Mrs. Boone is still in a very critical condition, although the attending physicians have hopes for her ultimate recovery. Mrs. Boone is considered under arrest, and is entered on the station-house blotter as a prisoner on a charge of attempted murder of her children. Readers may imagine to what a pitch of desperation a mother's mind arrives from destitution and despair, ere she attempts to kill her own offspring, and may well wonder if many such cases of poverty remain unrelieved in our midst.

The Vice Presidency.

The Chicago *Tribune* favors the nomination of Speaker Colfax for Vice President on the same ticket with Gen. Grant, a combination, it says, "that is talked of a great deal." It remarks further that "the masses of the party, aside from all considerations of locality, would prefer him to any man yet named in connection with the office." The *Tribune* goes on to say:

But there is really not so much locality objection as would seem at first sight to be found in Illinois to Mr. Colfax on Gen. Grant. He is a Buckeye born and bred, and an Illinoisan by adoption. The people of Illinois take a deep interest in the welfare of the people of Illinois. In regard to Colfax, he is a New Yorker by birth, and as any one may find well known to his native State as he is in Indiana. The case stands thus: Grant is a native of Ohio, Colfax is a native of New York. Both are naturalized in Illinois, the other to Indiana, and both belong to the whole nation as political men. One is the General of the army, the other is the presiding officer of the popular branch of Congress. One made his national fame on the field of battle, the other by the counsel of legislation. They are both endowed with remarkable executive ability, both are fully up to their country and its rising; and both in politics moderate radicals. No two men in the public service have the confidence of people throughout the Union, or enjoy a larger measure of public confidence and esteem. Yet, as we said before, it will be difficult to find room for Colfax on the ticket. The other sections of the Union must submit to the cancelation for the Vice Presidency, and if they should see proper to propose Colfax, the West will rebel—and justly so—for the reason, not because he hails from the West, but on account of his fitness, reliability and popularity.

It is stated that the whole cost of liquors annually made and sold in the United States, that is, whisky either in a pure or derivative state, is about $500,000,000. In the consumption of this liquor, 60,000 lives are yearly sacrificed, 100,000 men and women are sent to prison, and 200,000 children are bequeathed to poor houses and charitable institutions. In addition, 300 murders and 400 suicides are committed, and the expense connected with these events is $300,000.

THE prospectus of the *New York Ledger*, the great family paper, will be found in our advertising columns. It is a very readable document.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, December 18, 1867.

The general business of the city continues very dull, but notwithstanding there is a very active demand for money, much beyond the ability of the market to supply. Rates have become excessively high, but borrowers are willing to stand the increased rates if they can only be accommodated.

—The Government bond market in New York to-day was somewhat excited. It is reported that there is a steady investment demand for the whole list, and the easy condition of the money market is favorable to advance in Governments, apart from the short interest. The quotations to-day, as reported to Messrs. Ira B. McVay & Co., and James T. Brady & Co., show the following changes:

U. S. 6s 1881	111½
U. S. 5-20s, 1862	105½
U. S. 5-20s, 1864	104½
U. S. 5-20s, 1865, May and November	105½
U. S. 5-20s, 1865 January and July	105½
10-40s	100½
May 1884 Compounds	107¾
June 7-30s	104½
July 7-30s	104½
Gold	141¾
5-20s, 1867	108

—Stocks are up a fraction and the market is firmer. The noon prices to-day are as follows:

Michigan Southern	82¾
Cleveland & Pittsburgh	86½
Pittsburgh, Ft. Wayne & Chicago	90½
Erie	40¾
Chicago & Northwestern	68¾

The *Commercial Advertiser* reports a better feeling in the money market. It says:

In discounting operations there is a decidedly improved tone. It is felt that the late failures have weeded out some of the weakest firms, and that there is consequently an improved basis of confidence. Some houses have appeared in the market as purchasers of their own paper. Both at bank and in the street there is more disposition to discount, and prime paper is readily negotiated at 7@8½ per cent.

—The most marked feature of the Philadelphia bank statement of averages the past week was an increase of legal tenders to the amount of $429,100. All the other material items decreased—the loans $291,536; the deposits $377,855; the circulation $3,645, and the specie $1,605. The bank clearings indicate a very limited business, showing a decrease on those of the previous week of $6,974,549, and the balances a decrease or $989,691.

The New York *Tribune* of yesterday contains a very significant editorial on the resumption question. We quote the first paragraph of the article:

"The decline in the premium on gold to 153½ is an advance of the value of the paper dollar of the Government and the banks to 75 cents in gold. Although gold touched 128½ on the 11th of May, 1865, and averaged 130 for a week afterward, there has been no period since July, 1862, when it has stood for a month at as low a figure as it stands now. The principal cause of its present ebb is that the Government recently paid out about $11,000,000 in gold, and on the 1st of January will disburse about $20,000,000 more, leaving the net hoard then in the sub-Treasury but little over $80,000,000 in gold, which is at least $60,000,000 more than it should be, unless the Government means to use it immediately in resuming specie payments. We have already shown that our Government has twice as large a reserve of gold in proportion to its liabilities as the banks of this country or of England ever required to enable them to continue specie payments. If the Government should offer to resume to-morrow, it could hardly count and pay out more than $2,000,000 a day in redeeming the greenbacks which would be presented. Its customs receipts would amount to half a million a day, leaving the net drain only one and a half millions per day, at which rate it could keep up specie payments for 54 days, even if the whole country were so insane as to combine against the Treasury and present the last fraction of paper it owned. But it must be apparent that resumption would in a few days bring paper up to a par with gold, and that after that time no more notes would be presented."

—The Cincinnati *Commercial* says: "It has continued to be a very difficult thing for bankers to meet the most moderate necessities of their regular customers for discount accommodations, and a week of as great closeness in the money market has not been experienced for a long time. Nearly borrowers higgle but little as to rates of interest, and in some cases are exposed to merciless shaving. We quote customers' paper at 10 to 12 per cent., outsiders at 15 to 24 per cent. The course of business has been, in some degree, interrupted by the storms that have so extensively prevailed, but so far as comparison can be made fairly it seems that there is a slight falling off for the better in receipts from the interior; but any real improvement is scarcely expected before the first of January. Between paying debts when sales go very slow and figuring up depreciations in goods, merchants are having a hard time of it, and, unfortunately, as is often the case, when they need accommodations the most they are the most difficult to obtain. There is a consolation in knowing that the worst point reached and over with at once, if only thereafter a period of steadiness can be reached; and with this desire there seems to be some reaction in the clamor that had such noisy expression a short time ago for an expansion of the currency.

Gold.

The demand for window glass is over for the season, and despite the low prices ruling for the article for some months, netting a large loss to the manufacturers, stocks are beginning to accumulate quite rapidly. The workmen not showing any disposition to come to an understanding with the owners, the furnaces were closed on the 30th, and we intimated would be the case, in our issue of that date, and several more will go out to-day, if a reduction is not agreed upon. The Eastern cities are full of *forwarding* stock, and the Western will be still more so when the Ohio River is closed, as it will be in a few days, if not before.

Wool twines.....25 to 30

Broom-tying twine.....25

Carpet chain, colored.....25

Do chain colored.....30

PITTSBURGH MARKETS---WEEKLY REVIEW.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, } THURSDAY, December 19, 1867. }

Pig Iron and Iron Manufacturers.

But little business has been done in crude irons during the week and prices are depressed.

Notwithstanding stocks of raw irons in hands of consumers continue light, the depressed state of trade in manufactured irons in connection with the near approach of the holidays, induces buyers to restrict purchases to small lots as a mixture to stocks in hand.

The following are the sales reported this week: Anthracite, 118 tons; bituminous coal smelted, 845 tons; charcoal, 120 tons; total 1,220 tons. Last week's sales were 1,368 tons, a falling off this week of 148 tons. It may be proper to remark that certain makers, for some time past, have declined to furnish transactions taking place in the market.

Bituminous Coal Smelted from L. S. Ore.

We are repo ted the following sales:

100 tons Neutting Forge	$38 00	60 days.
100 tons Open Etsy Forge	40 00	4 mos.
50 tons do	40 00	4 mos.
200 tons White and Mottled Forge, a favorite brand	37 25	30 days.
75 tons Close Grey Forge, Medium	40 00	6 mos.
100 tons Grey Forge	40 00	6 mos.
100 tons Mahoning Valley Forge	40 00	6 mos.
20 tons do do	40 00	cash.
20 tons do No. 1 Foundry	45 00	cash.

Charcoal.

20 tons Charcoal	$46 00	4 months.
100 tons Charcoal to arrive	46 00	cash.

Bituminous Coal Smelted.

20 tons Neutral Forge	$40 00	6 mos.
20 tons do	40 00	6 mos.
20 tons do	40 00	6 mos.
20 tons No. 2 Foundry	45 00	4 mos.
25 tons No. 1 Foundry	48 00	4 mos.

Blooms.

10 tons Juniata	$95 00	cash.
10 tons do	90 00	6 mos.

Iron Bars and Nails.

The demand for iron and nails, since our last weekly report, has not improved, but it is rather a duller character. Manufacturers are gradually curtailing operations, and unless some unforseen demand, not now anticipated, springs up, many of the mills will in all probability entirely close between now and the new year. A rise in the rivers would no doubt revive the trade and prolong operations in the mills, but only temporarily. Prices of all kinds of iron bars have been materially reduced within a short time past, and to-day we have to announce the reduction of 25c ₱ keg on all sizes of nails in small lots, and in large lots both iron and nails are purchased in this market at a great reduction from the card rates. The prices, etc., are given in another column.

Copper, Steel and Tin.

Trade continues dull and sluggish in all branches of business coming under this head. We notice a reduction in sheathing, 14x48 inches, to 43c. Other articles ranging as before. Lots of copper are unchanged. Last week there was a change in tin plates and roofing, duly noticed. To-day we note a reduction of bar tin, ₱ lb, to the; pig tin, ₱ lb, to 36@38c, and slab spelter to 10c. The prices are given in another column.

Hardware.

Trade dull and unchanged—if we except sleigh bells, for which there is an active demand, with but a limited supply to meet the same.

Hides and Leather.

There is a fair demand for leather at unchanged quotations. Hides are rather tending downward. We quote as follows:

City finishers hides	45@46c
Country hair do	43@44c
Slaughter, heavy and middle	37@38c
Wax upper ₱ foot	37@38c
Hand & red sole	35@37c
Calf skins, city	80@90c
Russet skirting	40@43c

Hides.

Green salt hides, cured	12@13c
Green butchers' hides	12@13c
Dry flint	25@27c
Dry salted	22@24c

Glass

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75 tons Close Grey Forge, Medium	40 00	6 mos.
100 tons Grey Forge	40 00	6 mos.
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Oil City Oil Market.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

OIL CITY, December 18, 1867.

No change in crude market. Prices ranging at $2 10@2 20 at Oil City, and $1 90@1 95 on Creek, and dull. Weather moderating, with indications of rain.

L.

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Trade continues dull and sluggish in all branches of business coming under this head. We notice a reduction in sheathing, 14x48 inches, to 43c. Other articles ranging as before. Lots of copper are unchanged. Last week there was a change in tin plates and roofing, duly noticed. To-day we note a reduction of bar tin, ₱ lb, to the; pig tin, ₱ lb, to 36@38c, and slab spelter to 10c. The prices are given in another column.

Hardware.

Trade dull and unchanged—if we except sleigh bells, for which there is an active demand, with but a limited supply to meet the same.

Hides and Leather.

There is a fair demand for leather at unchanged quotations. Hides are rather tending downward. We quote as follows:

City finishers hides	45@46c
Country hair do	43@44c
Slaughter, heavy and middle	37@38c
Wax upper ₱ foot	37@38c
Hand & red sole	35@37c
Calf skins, city	80@90c
Russet skirting	40@43c

Hides.

Green salt hides, cured	12@13c
Green butchers' hides	12@13c
Dry flint	25@27c
Dry salted	22@24c

Oil City Oil Market.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

OIL CITY, December 18, 1867.

No change in crude market. Prices ranging at $2 10@2 20 at Oil City, and $1 90@1 95 on Creek, and dull. Weather moderating, with indications of rain.

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PITTSBURGH MARKETS---WEEKLY REVIEW.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, } THURSDAY, December 19, 1867. }

Pig Iron and Iron Manufacturers.

But little business has been done in crude irons during the week and prices are depressed.

Notwithstanding stocks of raw irons in hands of consumers continue light, the depressed state of trade in manufactured irons in connection with the near approach of the holidays, induces buyers to restrict purchases to small lots as a mixture to stocks in hand.

The following are the sales reported this week: Anthracite, 118 tons; bituminous coal smelted, 845 tons; charcoal, 120 tons; total 1,220 tons. Last week's sales were 1,368 tons, a falling off this week of 148 tons. It may be proper to remark that certain makers, for some time past, have declined to furnish transactions taking place in the market.

Bituminous Coal Smelted from L. S. Ore.

We are repo ted the following sales:

100 tons Neutting Forge	$38 00	60 days.
100 tons Open Etsy Forge	40 00	4 mos.
50 tons do	40 00	4 mos.
200 tons White and Mottled Forge, a favorite brand	37 25	30 days.
75 tons Close Grey Forge, Medium	40 00	6 mos.
100 tons Grey Forge	40 00	6 mos.
100 tons Mahoning Valley Forge	40 00	6 mos.
20 tons do do	40 00	cash.
20 tons do No. 1 Foundry	45 00	cash.

Charcoal.

20 tons Charcoal	$46 00	4 months.
100 tons Charcoal to arrive	46 00	cash.

Bituminous Coal Smelted.

20 tons Neutral Forge	$40 00	6 mos.
20 tons do	40 00	6 mos.
20 tons do	40 00	6 mos.
20 tons No. 2 Foundry	45 00	4 mos.
25 tons No. 1 Foundry	48 00	4 mos.

Blooms.

10 tons Juniata	$95 00	cash.
10 tons do	90 00	6 mos.

Iron Bars and Nails.

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Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1867.

TERMS:

One copy, per year.....$2 00
To clubs of twenty, per year.....1 00
One copy gratis to the getter-up of the club.

ALABAMA STATE CONSTITUTION.

Much anxiety has been manifested in many quarters as to what kind of constitutions it would be possible to adopt in the Southern States. The interests and opinions of the various classes in the unreconstructed States are held to be so antagonistic—so utterly incompatible—that it would be impossible for any convention to reconcile them, and form a constitution which would prove acceptable to the people, and protect the interests of all. The idea has been advanced that the most serious consequences would follow any attempt to commit to writing those fundamental principles which should constitute the organic law of the Southern States; that the difficulties in the way were insurmountable; that the conventions, composed of such heterogeneous elements, would become disrupted through local antagonisms, and that anarchy would prevail. That these fears are likely to prove entirely groundless, is apparent from the fact that in Alabama a constitution has just been adopted, and will be submitted to the people and Congress under the reconstruction laws. The instrument is liberal and moderate, yet comprehensive enough to secure the rights and liberties of all classes in the State. The bill of rights embodies the first clause of the Declaration of Independence; secures popular government and religious freedom; guarantees freedom of speech and of the press; trial by jury, and the right of *habeas corpus*. Imprisonment for debt is prohibited, as also *ex post facto* laws, and laws impairing the obligations of contracts. The right of the people to peaceably assemble for a redress of grievances is also guaranteed. No property qualification can be established for electors or officers of the State. Emigration from the State shall not be prohibited, and no citizen can be exiled. It is provided that "*no form of slavery* shall exist in the State, and there shall be no involuntary servitude otherwise than for the punishment of crime, of which the party shall have been duly convicted." The legislative, judicial and executive powers conferred are much the same as those in other States. All State officers may be impeached for misdemeanors in office. Divorces can only be granted by suit in chancery. The State may lend its credit to works of internal improvement, but cannot engage in them itself. *Every male person* born in the United States, and every male person who has been naturalized, of the age of twenty-one years and upward, who shall have resided in the State six months preceding the election, and three months in the county in which he offers to vote, shall be deemed an elector—excepting United States soldiers, sailors and marines, who are not permitted to vote by reason of being stationed in the State on duty. Registration must be provided for by the General Assembly. Those who, during the late war, violated in any way the rules of civilized warefare; those who may be disqualified from holding office by the proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States, known as article fourteenth; and those who have been disqualified from registering to vote for delegates to the State Convention, are not permitted to register as electors. It is provided, however, that the Legislature may remove these disabilities. An oath is necessary to registration—to support the Union, the State of Alabama, to accept the *civil and political equality of all men;* and agree not to deprive any one, on account of color, race or previous condition, of any political or civil right. The militia is to consist of all able bodied men between twenty-one and forty-five years. A Board of Education is established, and *one-fifth* of the annual aggregate revenue of the State is *exclusively appropriated to the maintenance of public schools.* Personal property of the value of one thousand dollars, and a homestead, are exempted from execution. Such are the chief features of the Constitution adopted by the Alabama Convention, and we commend them to the consideration of those who are apprehensive that, under universal suffrage, the people of the Southern States cannot mould their organic laws so as to guarantee the civil and political equality and rights of all men, and conform to the letter and spirit of our Republican institutions.

OUR MANUFACTURING INTERESTS.

It is unpleasant to read the accounts which come to us from other cities of the thousands of workmen and laborers who are now out of employment at this inclement season. It is estimated that no less than fifty thousand men and women are idle to-day in New York city alone. We are not prepared to say that a similar proportion of our population is without the usual means of support, but the number is certainly large. Our manufacturing interests have been very much prostrated, the causes of which we need not now stop to discuss. It is enough to know that trade is languishing in nearly all its branches, and that the prospects for a revival are very remote.

The iron and glass interests are very much depressed, and as no change for the better is anticipated, the mills and factories will soon be entirely idle. By reference to our commercial columns it will be seen that another reduction on nails has been made, amounting to twenty-five cents per keg on all sizes. In large lots iron can now be purchased at three and three-quarter cents, net cash, for common bar sizes, and nails at twenty-five cents per keg less than the card rates, net cash. All the iron and nail mills are curtailing operations on account of the scarcity of orders; and several, if not all, will cease work entirely at the beginning of the year, unless there is a revival in trade, which is not now anticipated.

The glass business is in about the same condition. The manufacturers here find it impossible to compete with eastern and foreign manufacturers, and they have no alternative but to stop work. A majority of the factories have already suspended operations, and several others will close to-day. At least four hundred workmen will thus be thrown out of employment for an indefinite period, and many persons who are indirectly interested in the business will suffer more or less. The manufacturers cannot carry on their works at the present prices demanded by the workmen, and as all efforts to secure a reduction have failed, the proprietors of the mills have concluded to suspend and await the developments of time. Of course they will suffer from having their capital lying unproductive; but it is not difficult to determine, with the experience of past suspensions and "lockouts" fresh in the mind, whether the operatives or the mill owners will suffer most.

THE PRICE OF GOLD.

Gold as an article of merchandise—and it has been nothing else for a long time—is for a variety of reasons sympathising with the prevailing financial depression. No doubt the heavy disbursement from the Treasury of last month and the still heavier disbursement which will be made on the first of the next month—in all about thirty-eight millions of dollars—are influential in depressing the price of gold. But then there are other reasons. The confidence which followed in the public mind the disposal of the impeachment question, and the certainty that Congress will have a policy framed to stimulate economy and thrift, are lively elements in the case. But we suspect that diminished importations and increased exportation—an accidental approach to one feature of Protection—have played an important part in sending down the price of gold. Usually cheap gold stimulates importation; but in the present instance there are counterbalancing influences. The crash of foreign houses in New York has upset for the moment the importing trade, cut off the demand for duties and exchange, whereby there has been left on the hands of the speculators a much larger amount of gold than they could carry. The price of gold necessarily declined rapidly on a sharp grade—nearly thirty per cent in ten days. It is gratifying to perceive that the advance in the price of our bonds abroad has been at almost a corresponding rate. Nor is there anything to show that the limit has been reached.

It is reported from Washington that an attempt will be made to revive the impeachment scheme, headed by Mr. STEVENS. Even were not Mr. STEVENS's condition not such as to render the report altogether improbable, so far as he is concerned, we should very much question it. It is well known, however, that a small body of Republicans, in and out of Congress, of the WENDELL PHILLIPS stamp, are little less than insane on this subject. Whatever this class of men are for, they are in the habit of urging as the only thing that will save the country and mankind in general from perdition. The failure of any scheme of theirs is the overthrow of truth and justice, and its opponents are set down as in league with the powers of darkness. We have no fears that their revival scheme can succeed. They who are for it can do no more than disturb needed harmony among those to whom the country looks for the management of grave questions involving vital consequences. It is noticeable how little these extremists regard popular sentiment. The popular approval of the defeat of impeachment has been general and unmistakable, and the responsible majority in Congress will do well if they heed the instruction it conveys, which we do not doubt they will do. Indeed, never before was there a time when close observance of the popular will was so necessary as now; and in respect to those who still cry out frantically for impeachment and other equally impracticable schemes, no one who knows what is the working of the public mind at the present time will hesitate for a moment, for the people are not with them.

The tone of the speeches made in the Virginia "Conservative" Convention differ materially from that of the anti-Radical fire-eating press of Richmond. The presence in the city of Senators WILSON and POMEROY, for the purpose of counselling moderation by the Constitutional Convention, in session there, is timely and significant; not less so, however, than the formal repudiation, by the convention itself, of the "iron-clad" oath, so distasteful to the aforesaid "Conservatives." That many of the latter have come to agree to qualified negro suffrage, that is, suffrage with the test of intelligence, is an important thing to note; but it is not for those who were for secession and surrendered only when the life was knocked out of the rebellion, to dictate on what conditions the South shall be reconstructed. This is the right and duty of loyal men, and in exercising it great wisdom and even moderation should be observed. In this connection we attach no little importance to the visit of the two Senators named, and shall look for results that will gratify and strengthen the Republican party in the North. No doubt the "Conservatives" would be very glad to see those who have the work of reconstruction in hand go to the worst extreme. Because it is on their errors only that they can expect to thrive, we hope to see them disappointed by the pursuit of a wise and moderate course on the part of the Convention.

The managers of the Gettysburg Asylum Lottery no doubt will be called upon to take some notice of the resolution adopted by the House of Representatives inquiring why the scheme has been exempted from taxation, and the speech of its mover, Mr. VAN WYCK, of New York. His statements certainly are very damaging and he did not hesitate to denounce the scheme as "one of the most infamous swindles ever perpetrated under the guise of charity." The farm, which is represented to be worth $60,000, was located in his own district, and was not worth $6,000: and the value of the jewelry, he supposed, was equally exaggerated. Similar representations were made at the time the Pennsylvania Legislature chartered the lottery. The reiteration of them with additions, and the resolution of inquiry—which the House promptly passed—seem to render an explanation necessary.

The selection of Chicago as the place and the 20th of May as the time for holding the Republican Presidential Convention, will give very general satisfaction to the party generally. The number of delegates to which each State will be entitled will be twice the number of Senators and Representatives to which each State is entitled in the National Congress. This will admit such Southern States—and only such—as shall at that time have been so far reconstructed as to gain representation in Congress. The call is issued to and in the name of the Union Republican Party. The terms of the call are liberal and comprehensive, to-wit:

> We invite the co-operation of all citizens who rejoice that our country is relieved from the gigantic power of the disunion armies of the rebellion, who would hold fast to the unity and integrity of the Republic, and maintain as the paramount issue the right of freedom to its own existence, whether imperilled by secret conspiracy or armed force, who favor economy in the administration of the public expenditures, of the complete extirpation of the remnants of Slavery, of the equal enjoyment of the speedy reorganization of those States whose governments were destroyed by the rebellion and the permanent restoration to their proper practical relations with the United States, in accordance with the true principles of Republican government.

Fenianism has come to be an actual trouble to the British Government, and a serious menace to the future peace of the realm. It has seemingly died out in America to come forth—though not in precisely the same form—in Old England. The execution in Manchester of the three Fenian leaders has been followed by a state of feeling and by demonstrations participated in by thousands and thousands of British subjects, which were little dreamed of by the authorities. Of the character of one of these demonstrations—that in London on the Sunday following the executions—the like of which took place on the same day in the principal cities of England and Ireland, a London letter says:

> "Several thousand men marched in solemn procession to Hyde Park, where, after other ceremonies, the entire number raised their heads and knelt down upon the grass, while the funeral service was solemnly rehearsed. There was something in the sight of that prostrate, and apparently humble crowd, that should make the government tremble. No doubt many a vow of hatred and vengeance was then mentally recorded or muttered in low tones, and upon that lump turf, that aristocratic park, was seed sown that shall ere long spring up and bear fruit that will not be palatable to those who may be compelled to eat of it."

Our cotemporary down below has been in a terrible humor all summer and fall over the negro franchise question, declaring that this is a white man's government, and that the blacks should never be allowed to rule over the whites. And as in the South this and that black man was elected, and it was seen that the negro would hold office, and did indeed get to exercise authority and political power, his indignation knew no bounds. And yet with strange infatuation, combined with others in this good city of Pittsburgh, and with malice prepense and aforethought, succeeded in electing to the highest municipal office, and thus adding to the number of rulers, one black more! Alas, consistency, &c. We, though we supported the Opposition, doubt not that the city will survive this infliction, and in due time come out all right.

The truth of the telegram that a disagreement exists between Gen. GRANT and Secretary STANTON is denied by a Washington telegram, professing to speak by authority. The dispatch asserts that "there is the best authority for stating that previous to Mr. STANTON leaving Washington, after being relieved by Gen. GRANT, Mrs. GRANT visited Mrs. STANTON, and *vice versa*, and GRANT and STANTON were on the most friendly terms. Since Mr. STANTON's return the same intimacy has existed between the gentlemen named and their respective families, and no one was more surprised than they at the publication of these unfounded reports."

The recent movements in Congress and in Virginia indicate how wide-spread is the conviction that some reform in the qualifications of voting is imperatively required. In almost every suggestion looking toward such a reform the idea of intelligence as a basis an educational test is found. Other qualifications have been added to this; but the notice which this test has received, and the absence of all opposition to it, are indications that impartial suffrage on the basis of intelligence commends itself to the good sense of all right-thinking men, and is destined to "win and wear."

It would be a matter of some importance if some of the managers of the so-called "Workingmen's Party" should define exactly what is meant by the term "workingmen" in that connection; and what are the qualifications and characteristics of those who may be fellowshipped. And our Republican workingmen who have identified themselves with this movement, would do well to inquire how and why it is that this kind of movements are usually so manipulated as to turn to the advantage of those to whom they are politically opposed, and are claimed when successful as "Democratic victories." Made up, as it is, mainly of the skilled and intelligent of the industrial classes, it is difficult to see how there can be a political organization more truly and firmly and uniformly the real workingman's friend than has been and still is the great Republican party.

The City of Cheyenne.

That stupendous enterprise, the Union Pacific Railroad, is destined to give birth to many cities, and maps which now indicate nothing save streams through an almost unbroken wilderness, will soon be dotted over with the sites of flourishing towns and cities. A correspondent, writing from Cheyenne, Dakotah Territory, the present temporary terminus of the road, gives an interesting description of the city and its surroundings. Cheyenne is situated at the base proper of the Rocky Mountains, and is over six thousand feet above the level of the sea. It is 1,030 miles from Chicago, 1,383 miles from San Francisco, 517 miles from the Missouri river, 518 miles from Salt Lake City, and 100 miles north of the Denver. It is located, as it were, in the middle of a tea saucer, the ground rolling gently up to the summit of a ridge, which forms almost an unbroken chain around the city. Four months ago there was not a house standing where Cheyenne now is. Two weeks ago the houses were counted to over three hundred and fifty, and since then more than a hundred buildings have been erected, and among them are many substantial and costly ones—some of stone, a few of brick, some adobe, but most of them are wooden. Most of the lumber has been brought from Denver, but now it begins to roll in from Michigan, out of the Omaha market. The foundation is laid and a hotel is being built upon it, the estimated cost of which is nearly a hundred thousand dollars. A public school is being built, and several other public buildings are in contemplation. The population is estimated at four thousand, but every passenger train which arrives adds to the number. Boarding is ten to twelve dollars per week, flour twelve to fourteen dollars per sack, wood twenty dollars per cord, and coal eighteen dollars per ton. Carpenters' wages are eight dollars a day, and other mechanics are paid at proportionate rates. The town is located at the intersection of the contemplated Denver Railroad, connecting with the Southern Pacific route, and is already becoming a market for the mining districts. Gold, copper, iron and coal are among the minerals found, and the agricultural inducements are considerable. The scenery is grand—the majestic Rocky Mountains towering high in the west, and kissing the sky with their snowy lips. To the north of the great range, and eighteen miles off are the Black Hills, standing like sentinels to their lordly master. In the southwest is seen the white robed summit of Long's Peak, and to the south, in clear weather, Pike's Peak is visible "in the dim distance." Then to the east stretches out the beautiful rolling prairies. The atmosphere is generally dry; always pure and very buoyant. The climate, although in winter very cold, is most delightful.

A Ghost in the Chicago Jail.

The people of Chicago are enjoying a novel sensation. They have had all kinds and conditions of their people in their jail, and now they have a veritable ghost—the perturbed spirit of one Fleming, a murderer, who was executed there nearly two years since, and who has by some means escaped from his fiery prison house, and now haunts the cells of the prisoners with infernal moanings, and with an indescribable, yet awful and agonizing presence. The manifestations are not confined to any one place, but are heard in the halls and cells, above, beneath, and all around. The newspaper reporters have taken the matter in hand, and are making the most of the poor ghost. The statements of the affrighted prisoners are given, and men, women and children read their accounts with hair on end. Some of the prisoners assert that they have felt this awful presence in their cells, which filled them with horror, and caused the perspiration to roll off like rain. The sensations were purgatorial, and the sounds were not of earth. Others declare that they have seen the form of the strangled Fleming hanging by the neck in their cell, which apparition threw them into paroxysms of terror. A reporter—who kept watch one night until ten o'clock—heard "peculiar kind of moanings," like those described by the prisoners, which continued for about two hours—now faint and far away, now close at hand and loud—and apparently from all directions. Shortly after the "witching hour" the horrible sounds died away, and the reporter rushed to the office to write out his starling story of "The Spirit of a Jail."

The Storm.

The snow storm appears to have been more severe at the East than in the West, accompanied, of course, with a correspondingly greater degree of cold. In New England the snow fell to a great depth, and all along the coast as far South as the Potomac, the visitation was altogether of an unusual character. In New York the sleighing carnival set in in earnest, and over a wide extent of country deep winter prevails. The snow on the Alleghenies fell to an unusual depth, but the Central Road plunged through. Owing to detentions in New Jersey, the mails have been a good deal behind. Westward, although much snow has fallen, the quantity does not appear so great as east of the Lakes and Mountains. It will rank as one of the great snow storms.

Roger A. Pryor's Chivalry.

A few days since there was published in the COMMERCIAL a statement by Dr. E. Donnelly, of this city, relative to an act of cowardice and treachery perpetrated by Roger A. Pryor, when he was a prisoner of war in the custody of two Union soldiers. This statement has been copied into many of our exchanges, and thus obtained a large circulation, eventually reaching the ears of one of Pryor's victims, who writes as follows:

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

There is an error in Dr. E. Donnelly's statement in your paper. Jared S. Harding, of the 51st Pennsylvania Volunteers, was run through the body by Roger A. Pryor, but the wound was not mortal. He is still living and can be heard from by directing to J. S. HARDING,
Hubbardstown, Ionia Co. Michigan.

Mr. SUMNER was visited a few days since by a delegation, when an "interview"—interviews are to be the order of the day—took place. The Senator regretted the failure of impeachment, and said if the House had done its duty the Senate would have backed it up. As for Grant, "he said he considered him a good soldier, and nothing more. There was no record of his ever having expressed a political axiom or an idea which could afford the people an insight of his capacity for statesmanship, or of the course he would be likely to pursue if he were elected President. He was, therefore, opposed to endorsing him as a candidate for the highest office in the gift of the people." Mr. Sumner probably does not suspect that his opposition to Grant will strengthen him, and that public opinion, though respecting ever so much Mr. Sumner's ability, has come to take on the hue of distrust as to the wisdom of his statesmanship.

Previous to the late rains in November, the prospect for the winter wheat crop in Illinois was sorry enough. A considerable breadth of land had been sown, but much of it remained unfecund in the ground; there was no moisture in the parched earth to cause it to sprout. After these rains, it was glorious to see the beautiful verdure put on by the so lately arid and dusty ground. The gracious rain brought the young germs to the surface, and the whole earth rejoiced in smiling green. If nothing untoward happens a good yield may be expected, though, of course, it is premature to hazard even a prediction of the results.

The following criticism is by the New York *Post:* Mr. Walker, in his letter, talks of ten thousand millions as "a billion," whereas it is a million of millions. Mr. McCulloch, and nearly everybody else, talks of "retiring the currency." The verb "retire" is intransitive; the word should be "withdraw" the currency.

Juniata County For Grant.—The Republican Convention of Juniata county assembled last week and instructed their Senatorial and Representative Conferees to instruct the delegates to be selected by them to represent their respective districts in the Republican State Convention in favor of Grant and Geary for President and Vice President.

PRESIDENTIAL.

A Baltimore dispatch says: The Grant enthusiasm continues, and new clubs advocating him for the Presidency are daily forming. It is thought here if he runs simply with his own past record as a platform, he will carry Maryland against the Democracy and its rebel allies. The Union men and Republicans, even extreme Radicals, say he is sound enough for them; and the thousands of recent disappointed office seekers declare they are sick of the Democracy and will vote for Grant, no matter who or what party nominates him.

General Basil W. Duke has published a letter, considering what Kentucky should require her candidate for the Presidency to indorse. He says Horatio Seymour is not, perhaps, the man to trust; General Sherman's "very decided idiosyncracy" unfits him for Kentucky's support; Seymour of Connecticut is not an available, but Mr. Pendleton he thinks is the coming and the desirable man.

It seems to be understood that the selection of Chicago and May as the place and time for holding the Republican National Convention, mean Grant for President. It is said that the friends of Mr. Chase wanted St. Louis or Cincinnati and July. Several members of the Committee who are for Grant voted for one or other of those places on local grounds.

The Harrisburg *Telegraph* concludes an article on the Presidency as follows:

> And the choice of a candidate for Vice President is of no less importance. Accidents have happened which ought not to impress the fact very forcibly upon the minds of public men. If General Grant shall stand where we believe he stands, the selection of Grant and Geary to lead the Republican hosts would render victory certain. Pennsylvania deserves the choice for Vice President; and in all her borders she has not a more illustrious son than our Executive. He, like Grant, has been tried and has not failed never. With such leaders victory would be certain.

The Nashville *Banner* asserts that, at an early day, President Johnson will issue an address announcing that he is not a candidate for re-election. The *Banner* also states that he will take up his residence at Nashville at the close of his present term of office.

The Newark (N. J.) *Crisis*, which has hitherto doubted the policy of Grant's nomination, has an article on the subject, from which we quote the following:

> We are for those who have desired some authoritative statement of the precise opinions of the General in reference to the vital principles of the Republican party—such a manifesto as would forever like—before committing ourselves unconditionally to the movement for his nomination; but recent events seem to have satisfactorily settled these doubts, and even if they did not, it is quite safe to conclude that, when the people everywhere are rallying to his standard, nothing is to be gained by opposition on the part of any who desire, and really believe in the perpetuation of republican supremacy. Whatever may be Grant's opinions as to some individual points of policy, he will, we feel confident, be able to secure the loyalty or his general acquiescence in the plan of reconstruction which the Southern States are now preparing to resume practical relations with the Union. He can safely be trusted to carry the power of the legislative department of the government, or the executive, through the period of restoration. He possesses, moreover, in a high degree that practical sobriety of judgment which is so essential to wise statesmanship. Even in the present office, as a safeguard against rash and inconsiderate enterprises, and is willful in unbounded sympathy with the feeling in favor of retrenchment and a stable adjustment of our financial system, he is, by no means the least important of the many which must occupy the attention of the next Administration. He would, in a word, be a safe, wise and patriot President, and though he might be slow, as Mr. Lincoln was, in accepting new theories, would like him be sure.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company has just issued a complete map of its road and branches, and of the roads with which they connect. Including the lateral lines now under construction, the total length of track owned by the Company will be 1,066 miles. The map is especially interesting as showing the new branches from Point of Rocks to Washington, and from Sandy Point to Hagerstown, and at Cumberland with the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad. It also shows the extension of the Winchester and Potomac Railroad, which is to constitute the preferred route through Southwestern Virginia to East Tennessee and the whole interior South, by the completion of the Metropolitan Branch of the Connellsville Road, the distance from Washington to Pittsburgh will be reduced to 300 miles, and from Baltimore to Pittsburgh to 325. If the Baltimore and Ohio railroad lines map their respective works and connections as effectively as the Baltimore Company has done, and forward one of the same to each of the principal hotels in the land, they would do the press and themselves a service, and through the latter greatly enlighten the public. It would enable many newspaper men who are often compelled to refer to a corner of a railway to speak more intelligently of their subject matter, than they now can from old State or county maps, made years ago, and then more in reference to showing geographical divisions, than railroad routes and connections as they now exist.

The Steel King.

We are accustomed to think that we are a great manufacturing people, but our large establishments, particularly in the working of metals, are entirely overshadowed by some of the huge English workshops. And even the English are left behind now, and little Prussia, which has latterly grown to be great Prussia, boasts an establishment for the working of steel, alone which surpasses any general manufactory in the world. Krupp, the steel king of Essen, has, within the past forty years, built up what is in effect a town by itself as his workshop. He employs 12,000 workmen; add to them their wives and children, and there is already a respectable population. Last year he turned out 62,500 tons of cast steel, valued at $7,500,000, and involving a daily consumption of 1,000 tons of coals and coke. Of guns he made 2,500 altogether, valued at $5,250,000. Such facts as these should make us ashamed of the restricted use we are able to make of the vast resources confided to our care.

The Grape Crop on Lake Erie.

At a meeting of the Pomological Society at Sandusky, the other evening, Mr. Kelley stated that the average production of grapes on the island this year had been about one and a half tons per acre. The Kelly Island Wine Company purchased the grapes from about 225 acres, and have manufactured about 65,000 gallons of wine. Other parties have made at least 45,000 gallons, being a total of 100,000 gallons that is now stored on that island. Bass Island, he estimated, had also in store 45,000 gallons in wine. Bass Island has sold more fruit for the purpose of wine production to the ground in cultivation, than Kelly's Island. Additional attention is given to the culture of new varieties of grapes. This is occasioned by a slight want of confidence in the Catawbas. Among those being introduced are the Delawares, Hartfords, Rogers, Ives, Norton's Virginia, &c. He stated that the specific gravity of the must for the season would average fully eighty-five, and perhaps more.

Letter from Senator Sherman.

In reply to a letter from Mr. Henry Clews, of Wall street, Senator Sherman writes:

> UNITED STATES SENATE CHAMBER,
> WASHINGTON, December 6, 1867.
>
> DEAR SIR: I have read with interest your letter, and will certainly weigh carefully all the propositions made as to our financial measures. The Committee of Finance is now engaged in studying all these issues, and I am confident will be able to agree upon measures that will fulfill not only the legality but the morality of our public engagements. More than this I cannot say; but I heartily invite all suggestions of a practical character.
>
> Very truly yours, JOHN SHERMAN.

The Providence *Journal* makes the following sensible remarks on a current topic: "The random and ill-considered remarks of a few colored delegates in the Reconstruction Conventions in the South are receiving undue consideration from the people who make up the dispatches for the Northern press. Suppose some Cromwell, who lately was a voiceless chattel, does declare that 'the negroes were going to have their rights, if it was by revolution and bloud.' Has the speaker suddenly sprung to that prominent representative position which gives significance to his utterances, and demands for them a place in the columns of five hundred newspapers? The collective wisdom of the assembled bodies is wild enough, at times, without the additional aggravation of individual vaporings."

In Boston a horse that had for a long time drawn a steam engine to fires was temporarily exchanged for one that had never performed that service. "The night when the change took place a fire occurred, but the firemen could not make any use of the city animal, which proved balky and totally unmanageable. The 'regular' animal confined in the city stables, on hearing the fire bells, amused itself by kicking down the stall and everything else within the reach of its heels, in its anxiety to get out and go to the fire."

All the Southern States, except Texas, have already called their Conventions. One of them—Alabama—has formed her Constitution and will vote upon its ratification on the 4th of February, electing at the same the State officers, Legislature and Congressmen. There is no doubt at all of the result of the popular verdict. The Constitution will be adopted by an overwhelming majority, and Alabama will be ready to be admitted into Congress again immediately after.

To supply a want that has long been felt, it has been determined to establish a new American paper in Paris on a purely American basis, to be called the *Continental Gazette*—to be carried on with American capital—to be devoted to American interests. This journal, the first of its kind in Paris, will be published only weekly, and will appear first on New Year's Day, but subsequently on every Sunday morning.

Nolo Episcopari.—According to the London *Gazette* English bishoprics are a drug in the market just now. The bishopric of Calcutta was offered to something like a dozen different persons before one could be found to accept it; and the bishopric of Litchfield, with a preferment of more than $32,000 a year, had been offered in vain to three different clergymen.

Juniata County For Grant.—The Republican Convention of Juniata county assembled last week and instructed their Senatorial and Representative Conferees to instruct the delegates to be selected by them to represent their respective districts in the Republican State Convention in favor of Grant and Geary for President and Vice President.

THE EARTHQUAKES IN THE VIRGIN ISLES.

Graphic Description of the Great Bore, or Tidal Wave, Attending the Earthquake—Direction of the Earthquake Shocks at St. Thomas and St. Croix—Fissure Made in Saba Island.

St. Thomas, November 21, 1867.

On Sunday, the 17th November, between two and three P. M., a slight shock was said to have been felt on shore at St. Thomas. The most reliable witnesses I questioned said they heard a decided "rumbling," which, by experience, they knew was the usual accompaniment of an earthquake.

On Monday, November 18, at about eight minutes to three P. M., an earthquake was felt on board the flagship Susquehanna. I can describe it only as a kind of "earth shudder," lasting from a minute to a minute and a half. The vibrations were distinct and regular, with a very slight increase in intensity about the middle of the shock. The current seemed to vibrate between the north and south points. Aneroid barometer 29.82, thermometer 79 degrees, the average points at which both instruments had stood for some days previous and have done so since.

On shore I found it difficult to get evidence that would establish any data. The inhabitants seemed to be in a state of trepidation and panic that precluded the possibility of obtaining supported evidence on any point. Many buildings were thrown down, and the falling of chimneys and loose masonry work destroyed or injured houses that were otherwise unharmed. Assistant Engineer Ridder (of the flagship) informed me that he saw a crack or earth rent caused by the earthquake.

At a quarter past 3 P. M., a bore was observed advancing with great rapidity toward the harbor. It apparently came on as a tidal wave from the south, which broke in two over the meeting the shoal water line of thirty-six fathoms, which runs round the southern side of St. Thomas at eight miles distance from the shore line. The wave was about eight minutes in appearance (supposed) at the shoal line until it broke upon Prince Rupert's Rocks, which extend half way across the mouth of the harbor. There it broke, imparting its momentum to the body of water at the unprotected entrance, which came in as a heavy swell roller, without cap, and committed the damage done to the lower part of the town of St. Thomas. As the bore at St. Thomas and that at St. Croix occurred about the same time, I believe them to be identical in origin and effect. A vessel some miles outside the shoal line, and in a direct line between the harbor and St. Croix in the direction the wave came, was observed under all sail and did not appear to be affected by it, so that I should describe it as a tidal wave starting from some point of the Spanish main (say Laguayra) and then gaining a great speed, met the shoal water line at St. Thomas and St. Croix and broke into the anchorage, a large crested wave. The height of the wave, as it appeared at the time, appeared to be very great (thirty feet), but on approaching Prince Rupert's rocks, comparing it with the height of two vessels, a brig and bark caught in its crest, was not more than fifteen feet high (since, by measurement from the middle, it has been found to be twenty feet high.) As the bore advanced, the water in the harbor receded, leaving the flagship aground, starboard beam to seaward, the bottom of the harbor and St. Croix's bay being exposed to the other beam. The secondary wave lifted her up, (the surge on her cable carrying away both anchor socks,) and passed on to the wharves. The brig and bark after weathering the crest of the bore, were whirled together in the eddies and backset, and were driven on shore on the steep sides of the harbor outside Prince Rupert's rocks. The bark came off with the reflux, but the brig was left high and dry above high water mark on the side of the hill. A steamtug, which was going out to the La Plata, (Liverpool steamer, lying in Gregorie bay,) on coming in sight of the bore put back with all speed, but was overwhelmed, although she had been perhaps two hundred yards to go to reach safe waters. A small sloop capsized in the bore as it broke. The tug disappeared crew and all. A negro boy escaped from the sloop, assisted by a board which floated, and was picked up by a boat from the flagship. For three hours after the bore had broken, the water in the harbor was troubled with eddies and ship's boats were driven in changing eddies and circles. At half-past six P. M. it ceased. A slight gust of wind accompanied the bore in its direction, which died away with it.

At seven o'clock I went on board the De Sota to ascertain what injuries she had received. She had been anchored between the flagship and the Liverpool Company's iron wharf. (The flagship was anchored in four fathoms of water, center of Prince Rupert's rocks, bearing south). The Liverpool Company's wharf sank into the water before the bore reached it; and it seems that the eddies had been strong enough to carry it away, or else that the bore impelled before it a body of water which acted below the surface. The wharf did not topple over towards or from the bore, but sank down, as if its foundations had given away. The De Sota, with four anchors down, was whirled helplessly in semi-circles from north to south. She parted two cables on her heaviest anchors and was thrown against the debris of the iron wharf and Prince Rupert's rocks, sustaining some damage. Steam was immediately gotten up and her steam pumps put in requisition to clear the hold of water. No one was lost from on board the flagship or De Sota. The De Sota lost one of her boats and had three rendered useless by injuries. The flagship picked up in the harbor about fifteen men and one officer's gig.

The damage done by the earthquake and bore seems to have exceeded that done by the hurricane on the 29th ult.; but under the excited condition of people's minds no reliable details are obtainable.

The direction of the current of undulation on board ship was not clearly definable; they appeared to be athwart ship, from starboard to port. As ship headed about east-northeast they may be said to have run from east to north or thereabouts.

On the morning of November 19 I visited the Liverpool mail steamship La Plata (she was laying in Gregorie Bay) to offer any assistance in our power. Her captain reported that he "saw the bore rise in the distance, when he judged it was thirty feet in height; that as it came along the rocks in front of the anchorage broke its force. It struck the La Plata on the starboard quarter, staving in some of the upper works and carrying her away from her anchors, but she rode out the shock safely."

He said that during the earthquake the island of Saba was reported to him as issuing flames and smoke, but when he observed it there was only a cloud about it, whether of smoke or dust he could not say. The picture of the La Plata said he could plainly see the flames rising from the island. The captain called my attention to a fissure dividing the island in two, which he assured me was not there before, and as he had been a very long time sailing between St. Thomas and England, he was well acquainted with the landmarks and knew the change had been effected. I observed that the walls of the insane asylum were cracked, and there were no volcanic traces visible. The captain had landed all his passengers during the night, losing only two women. Later in the day the La Plata came round into the harbor, and I was led to suspect that she has sustained greater damage than was first known of.

During the evening of the 18th I went on shore and found that the water had penetrated, up town, about twenty feet above high water mark, flooding the warehouses, destroying property, &c. Boats and small vessels were carried up and landed in the streets; sloops landed inland on the harbors. During the two hours and a half that I was on shore I felt several shocks of an earthquake, say seven or eight; most of them were very faint, with scarcely any motion, but accompanied by a sound somewhat like the moan that precedes the typhoon. One shock, however, was very distinct, and alarmed the people in the vicinity considerably. To the best of my judgment it ran in undulating waves from about southwest to northeast, beginning with a moan, which was followed by a few vibrations, again followed by a distinct series of more violent. I noticed that either the people on shore were more sensitive and their nerves more accurately stretched by their anxiety and experience, or that the shocks became critical, and contact their touch when he was funny, then hesitated to laugh till they saw whether the best people were laughing too, and in fine, not only were all the seats reserved, but the people who sat in them were fifty times as sensitive as the seats. The reason why Mr. Dickens reads so much better here than in Boston is simply that his audience is thoroughly sympathetic with him. It is not to say that it is not also a well-behaved audience. It has never done coming in. It walks in at all stages of the performance with a lady on its arm, and the offense is not intended as regarding the lady, but the effect that all the ladies are pretty, and wear enchanting bonnets, because the whole assembly is seized with a desire to turn round and look at them. The audience snickers right out whenever it wants to. It has repeatedly stopped Mr. Dickens in his funniest moments by laughing out as loud as it could, and making the reader laugh too, than which, of course, nothing could be more reprehensible. But, somehow or other, all this bad behavior does not in the least damp the spirits of the Reader. With a generous consideration for human weakness, he has evidently power to control his audience, for the men who wielded the latter were of his own race. He cited the cases of Hayti and Jamaica as the results of negro rule, and he believed [illegible] Congress if they expected to control the blacks and prevent their excesses, would find themselves wofully mistaken. To give blacks the power of government in the Southern States would be the highest crime against nature, and he believed when the North saw the results, there would then be a reaction which would sweep such governments from the face of America.

This generation has suffered and may suffer more, but the State will live and look back to this period as only a dark episode of the scenes now passing, and only make men truer to the State which gave them birth.

In the Reconstruction Convention a colored delegate offered a resolution for the appointment of a Committee of five to investigate what steps had been put on foot to the intimidation of loyal men who are not land owners, who voted the Republican ticket, and who are distressed therefore by disloyal landholders. A white colored and two white Republicans spoke in favor, and three Conservatives opposed the resolution. The speaking took a wide political range. Pending the discussion the convention adjourned.

The Way They "Do" Dickens in Boston and New York.

The New York *Tribune* draws the distinction between Boston and New York in the manner the two cities "do" Dickens, as follows: It is plain that Mr. Dickens, like all great actors, is very much affected by his audience. Those who heard him in Boston say that after the first night the people acted on him more and more like a wetter and wetter blanket, and that though he struggled manfully against the influence, nothing but a vigorous dip in New York at the end of the week saved him from being utterly drowned and lost to us forever. The audiences in Boston were irreproachable in point of order, but they came with meek penitence to the ladies with their knitting and German grammars, the gentlemen with the *North American Review*, and the children with *Our Young Folks*; they sternly frowned down applause, and if any ill bred person laughed, he was very properly insulted, and held up to public ridicule in the evening paper next day; they grew stiller and stiller with each successive reading, until on the last evening the loveliest and most embarrassing silence reigned in Tremont Temple for the last two readings. The audience was perfect in discipline, perfect in decorum, but, like perfect people in general, it was disagreeable to know. When Mr. Dickens was pathetic the Bostonians became critical, and counted their tears; when he was funny, they hesitated to laugh till they saw whether the best people were laughing too, and in fine, not only were all the seats reserved, but the people who sat in them were fifty times as reserved as the seats. The reason why Mr. Dickens reads so much better here than in Boston is simply that his audience is thoroughly sympathetic with him. It is not to say that it is not also a well-behaved audience. It has never done coming in. It walks in at all stages of the performance with a lady on its arm, and the offense is not intended as regarding the lady, but the effect that all the ladies are pretty, and wear enchanting bonnets, because the whole assembly is seized with a desire to turn round and look at them. The audience snickers right out whenever it wants to. It has repeatedly stopped Mr. Dickens in his funniest moments by laughing out as loud as it could, and making the reader laugh too, than which, of course, nothing could be more reprehensible. But, somehow or other, all this bad behavior does not in the least damp the spirits of the Reader. With a generous consideration for human weakness, he has evidently power to control his audience, for the men who wielded the latter were of his own race. He cited the cases of Hayti and Jamaica as the results of negro rule, and he believed [illegible] Congress if they expected to control the blacks and prevent their excesses, would find themselves wofully mistaken. To give blacks the power of government in the Southern States would be the highest crime against nature, and he believed when the North saw the results, there would then be a rea